

# JACK MINER

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## THE JACK MINER BIRD SANCTUARY

BY

BETTY HEINZ

Reprint from December 1967 issue of Izaak Walton League. Outdoor America - official publication of the Izaak Walton League, 1326 Waukegon Rd. Glenview, Illinois, 40025. "Jack Miner said every outdoor man should join the I.W.L.A." Jack Miner's sons and The Trustees of The Jack Miner Foundation like Jack Miner urges every one to become a member and active in The Izaak Walton League.



When the late Jack Miner, whom Irvin S. Cobb used to refer to as "the greatest practical naturalist on the planet", died, the newspaper clipping services announced that he and his Bird Sanctuary had been given more space in the Canadian press than any other Canadian or Canadian institution which on this statistical basis made him the best known Canadian while

in the U.S. the clipping services rated him fifth, being preceded by Ford, Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker. All thinking citizens realize his life work was most important to humanity and our wild life, but why?

With only three months' public school education for thirty years he had such a lecture career that on April 9, 1927 when the Izaak Walton League was sponsoring its annual banquet with President Hoover of the U.S. as guest of honor and tickets selling for \$10.00 a plate whom did they choose as their speaker? — none other than Canada's most famous son Jack Miner, but why?

In June two years before Jack Miner's death when King George VI of Great Britain was bestowing honors on his Canadian and British subjects out of 400,000,000 people whom did he choose to receive the O.B.E. (Order of The British Empire)? — none other than the same Jack Miner, with a citation accompanying it which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

At the time of his death over five thousand messages found their way to Jack Miner's home from Kings, Queens, Presidents, Governors, Prime Ministers, preachers and the men and women on the street.

The Canadian Government, both members of The House of Commons and Canadian Senate, lost no time in creating a national honor and memorial to Jack Miner because they by a unanimous vote of both Houses, first since Confederation, set aside the entire week of April 10th in the ten Provinces to be known as National Wild Life Week. The date of April 10th was the birthday of the late Jack Miner and was such an appropriate time of the year when the birds and other wild life were returning to Canada to nest. So popular has the week become that many towns, cities and communities refer to it as Jack Miner Week.

This is a living memorial to Jack Miner and future generations benefit from same because all sportsmen's club, conservation associations, service clubs, natural history and all outdoor clubs observe same by supplying literature to schools, churches and the press. Truly this is a great monument to a great man.

What did Jack Miner do to win the hearts of his fellow-men? As one biography writer has answered this question by saying "Jack Miner was a natural born Naturalist" because as a child his parents used to tell how "little Johnnie when he was only four years of age used to play with polliwogs in the creek that ran by his birthplace in the suburbs of Cleveland." Here Jack Miner would catch polliwogs and transfer them day by day into little mud holes created by cows walking by the side of the creek. By moving these polliwogs each day, watching to see when the tails fell off the polliwogs and they became frogs and grew, was an intensive study for Jack Miner's mind of four years.

When Jack Miner was thirteen years old which was in April, 1878, he with his father and mother, sisters and brothers moved to Canada in the area of Kingsville, Ontario which abounded with game of practically all varieties both birds and animals and Jack Miner by studying the habits of each individual species of game became a noted hunter and sportsman but as the sportsmen increased and more killing took place he noticed the decrease of the wild life and soon realized no one species could stand the killing of both man and their natural enemies. He would see the occasional flock of Canada Geese and variety of ducks migrating high — high — high which was such a rare sight that the family would all go outside of their log house to see such a spectacle of Canada Geese in their V formation as they would make their way in the spring from the South to places unknown in the North.

It was in February, 1904 that Jack Miner decided to build a haven or place of safety for the waterfowl. Jack Miner in 1904 was only thirty-nine years of age but he had found by hunting that the Canada Geese soon realized he was their enemy so said Jack Miner "if they know me as their enemy they should know me as their friend." With this thought in mind he dug ponds on the old Miner homestead and went some twelve miles away on the lake shore to a man's home by the name of Julien who lived at Oxley, Ontario and purchased four wing-clipped Canada Geese and took them to his ponds where they were liberated.

So rare were they that he kept these four wing-clipped Canada Geese within the enclosure that circled the ponds for four years and it was not until the spring of 1908 that any wild Geese joined them when eleven set sail over the Miner pond and landed... These eleven were protected and given a home of safety and allowed to migrate north and in the spring of 1909 these eleven returned with their increase which amounted to 32. The 32 migrated to the nesting grounds in 1910 and returned with 350 and since then Jack Miner built his ponds and started planting trees to act as wind breaks around the sheltered and protected areas and each fall for the last twenty-five years between forty and fifty thousand migrating Canada Geese stop for a period and make their home on the now world famous Bird Sanctuary where a ration of feed is spread daily to the hungry population of waterfowl. It has now become a problem to provide enough feed to feed them. As Jack Miner used to say, "It is not a case of how many will you feed but a case of how much money can I raise to feed them?"

Yes the waterfowl during the last sixty-three years 1904 - 1967 have accepted the Miner hospitality to such an extent that they now start to arrive during the middle or late September and spend the entire fall, winter and spring months on this protected area where man or beast are not allowed to fire a gun. When Jack Miner was asked to give his secret he said, "Throw a handful of feed instead of a thimble full of shot." Instead create kindness in one's heart instead of hate or murder.

In August, 1909 Jack Miner unconsciously proved he was interested in conservation research when he secured the first complete banding record of a bird on the continent. In August he banded a mallard duck with his name and address and liberated it. On January 10, 1910 it was reported shot by a Dr. W. E. Bray of Anderson, South Carolina. This constitutes the first complete record as to where a bird was banded and where shot on the continent.

Between 1910 and 1915 he had banded 50,000 ducks at his bird haven and was the first to do such mass banding and secure such a large number of records which caused his friends to refer to him as "the pioneer bird bander on the continent."





In 1915 looking for greater fields to conquer he set out to band Canada Geese and up to his death in 1944 he had banded over 40,000 Canada Geese and since his death there have been nearly 25,000 (1967) more Canada Geese banded. Mr. Jasper W. Miner, youngest son of the late Jack Miner, has full charge of all bird banding activities and even in his father's time he helped band 65,000 Canada Geese and in so doing he caught 100,000 because 35,000 had been previously banded at the Jack Miner Sanctuary.

Today The Jack Miner Wild Life Haven is a picturesque scene to behold. With two small ponds centrally located and during the last half century some 53,000 trees, fruit bearing shrubs and evergreens, wild grapes surround the acreage where the fresh spring water ponds are located and the song and insectivorous birds find food and shelter in this reforested area. Truly it is a sanctuary from many angles.

The great asset the Sanctuary enjoys is the good will it enjoys by all classes of people especially children who journey there from all parts of the world with on one day as high as between five and ten thousand automobiles carrying passengers to see the unique sight of nature with wild life living in its natural environment.

Truly Jack Miner and his work enjoyed the good will of all as the late Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, in paying tribute to the late Jack Miner said: "Jack Miner enjoyed the good will of everybody throughout the civilized world." He would add: "If Jack Miner has any critics what do Jack Miner's critics have to show?"

As far back as 1952 The Jack Miner Sanctuary and Jack Miner's home has been rated the second greatest tourist attraction in Canada only to be outdone by Niagara Falls.

Between Christmas and New Year's in 1956 history was made at The Jack Miner Sanctuary when The Hon. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations, contacted Mr. Manly F. Miner, eldest son of the late Jack Miner, and said that the Members of the United Nations who did not go home for Christmas had voted unanimously to go by special plane to visit and see the Jack Miner activities. Some 33 official delegates from 33 different countries made history and spent from 3 to 8 p.m. as guests of the sons of the late Jack Miner. As Mr. Mackenzie King said if Jack Miner or his Conservation philosophy has any enemies how many members of the United Nations will travel to your home and visit your grave and life work twelve years after your death?

In 1931 the late Jack Miner and his wife looking into the future created what is known as The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation Act which is a tax free philanthropic trust with headquarters at Kingsville, Ontario where people send their contributions to help carry on this Conservation work. Many men and women who want to see this work carried on have made wills and made bequests in their wills that certain sums go to the Jack Miner Foundation.

The Foundation has a Board of Trustees who manage and carry on the activities so the place is carried on just the same only more actively than when Jack Miner left it.

No tips or admission fees are charged at the Sanctuary, not even a postcard is allowed to be sold but still the place has to have monies for the Trustees to carry on so friends of the cause are asked to send their cheques to The Jack Miner Foundation and when making your will remember the Jack Miner Foundation with a bequest.

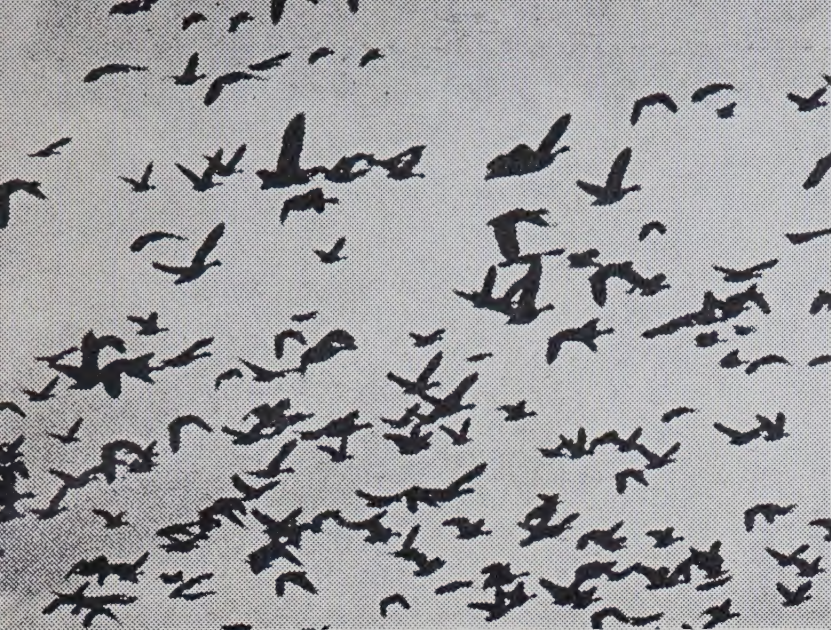
When Jack Miner died he was best remembered in Iowa, Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Ohio for his activities in those States with the Izaak Walton League between the years 1925 and 1935. The press at the time of his death in those States all carried obituary columns and said he had done more to help organize Izaak Walton League Chapters more than any other individual. During those years he was at the height of his career on the lecture platform and Izaak Walton League Chapters would spring up over night in towns and communities and they would feature a Jack Miner lecture and instead of Jack Miner spending the evening talking about his own activities at his Kingsville Sanctuary he talked about the work and meaning of Waltonianism and before his audience left they were Waltonian Members as they left the hall. To illustrate the point the late Mayor of New York and Governor of New York State, Alfred Smith introduced Jack Miner as "The Billy Sunday for the bird family". Yes, Jack Miner was converting people to Conservation and Waltonianism every place he went.

The best illustration is Horicon Marsh in Wisconsin for whose existence today the Izaak Walton League is fully responsible. Had it not been for State Walton League Presidents like Judge Graess, there would be no Horicon Marsh today. They organized the entire State into Chapters with such Chapter Presidents as Louis Radke, H. W. Story of Milwaukee, Mr. Berndt of Madison, Haskel Noyes, Milwaukee, Mr. Aberg of Madison, and their big project was Horicon Marsh development, and to climax it at their State Convention, they sponsored a Jack Miner lecture where the Governor of State and all State Representatives and Senators were present and Jack Miner at the appointed date appeared and after delivering his message showed pictures and made an appeal on behalf of the Izaak Walton League to make Horicon Marsh a big Wild Life Refuge and what was interesting was within a few months it was enacted as a preserve and the most interesting thing is the founders including the Legislators are practically all gone to their happy hunting ground but during the last twenty years the sportsmen each fall around the outside of Horicon Marsh are shooting Canada Geese that have been banded at the Jack Miner Sanctuary nearly a thousand miles away, proving that they go from one Sanctuary to another Sanctuary which means while the waterfowl have such safety zones throughout the continent we won't have to build museums to house dead and rare specimens.

As proof of Jack Miner's interest in Waltonianism we reprint an article entitled "Waltonianism" written by Jack Miner some thirty-five years ago and at that time published in all the leading State Conservation magazines and periodicals which brought Jack Miner a couple of hundred letters daily of praise for his tribute he gave the Waltonians of his day: —







## "WALTONIANISM"

BY  
JACK MINER - 1932

"WALTONIANISM IS EDUCATIONALISM AND THE RIGHT KIND OF EDUCATION IS THE HOPE OF THE WORLD, MORE LOVE AND LESS BAYONET-POINT COMPULSION", SAYS JACK MINER, OHIO BORN CANADIAN NATURALIST.

"Waltonianism is Educationalism, and the right kind of education is the hope of the world. More love and less bayonet-point compulsion. That is my slogan for the League. Although the League did not originate until 1920 or 1922, yet I am, and have been, a one hundred per cent Waltonian since 1904 when I started my sanctuary and conservation movement in Canada and am one of the first on the Continent.

"During the last three years I have crossed the continent five times on lecture tours, on one occasion going to Alaska, having audiences of not less than five hundred, and on several occasions five thousand and more. Never have I failed, no matter what class of people I was addressing, to urge them to join the Izaak Walton League, and not only to join, but to back the movement up financially. I have repeatedly said that I have demonstrated what one man can do without the advantages of a marsh and no money, my biggest bank account being an over-drawn one. What can the one hundred million, well-organized people of America do with its wealth and streams and marsh lands to start sanctuaries? Thus, you can readily see how happy it made me to see such an active organization as the Izaak Walton League come into existence and the work it has been and is doing.

"A whole book and many a good Christian sermon could be preached on the good the Izaak Walton League of America is doing, but to me the good they are doing all centers around the word OTHERS, not only OTHERS in this generation, but OTHERS in generations to come. To illustrate more fully what I mean let me give you the following incident. A few springs ago my good friend the late Jim Heyworth, a true Waltonian, arranged that I should come to Chicago and accompany him and his Waltonian brothers on a week's fishing trip to Northern Wisconsin.

"At the appointed time, I went. They met me as agreed, and on a Saturday morning we arrived at their fishing reserve. Poor Jim rowed me out and I caught the first speckled trout, and the last one I ever caught. The next morning being Sunday, I put on my rubber boots and went for a stroll up the bank of the stream, above their two artificial lakes. Here I saw two or three occupied beaver houses, and I flushed several pairs of mallards that were evidently nesting in or near that vicinity.

"When fully one-half a mile above the line of their reserve I went to cross the stream on an old log bridge evidently used by the settlers of that country every winter. The bridge, I should say, was about fifteen feet wide and the clear water fully three feet deep. As the sun was hot, my rubber boots were extremely warm, so I sat down on this bridge and pulled them off, and soon I



was listening to the songs of the migratory birds that were flitting among the scattered trees in the swampy ravine.

"The sun beamed down nice and warm, and I stretched out like a blacksnake. I was about drifting off into dreamland when the corner of my eye was attracted by a glitter in the clear water. Now let me say to the sportsmen of America that in my younger days I have enjoyed seeing five different varieties of ducks in my decoys at once. In Northern Quebec and Ontario I have time and time again had a carload of moose at the mercy of my rifle. Yes, and during the last fifteen years I have seen the wild geese fly up so thick and close to my little home that the vibration of their wings have actually shook the windows, but never in all my undreamed-of, beautiful life have I beheld such a thrilling, glittering, overflowing, beautiful sight as I did for the next hour. I had hard work even then to break away for I am absolutely certain that I saw five times as many speckled trout going up stream as this whole fishing party of ten of us caught. Before leaving I took particular notice, and here was a public fisherman's path beside this trout stream.

"Now who was the cause of these speckled beauties glittering their way up and up this stream? Why, certainly the very same class of Izaak Walton, self-sacrificing men who paid my way, and were the cause of me being there to see them.

"Yes, dear Jim Heyworth, has passed to the beautiful beyond, but fish that he helped plant in the lakes and streams of North America are still going on up stream for OTHERS, OTHERS, and OTHERS. This is the true spirit of true Waltonianism.

"In closing, allow me to quote C. D. Meigs' poem "OTHERS". It so nicely brings out the thought of Waltonianism.

## "OTHERS"

BY C. D. MEIGS

Lord help me to live from day to day  
In such a self-sacrificing way,  
That even when I kneel to pray  
My prayer shall be for — OTHERS —  
Help me in all the work I do  
To ever be sincere and true,  
And know that all I'd do for you  
Must needs be done for — OTHERS —  
Let self be crucified and slain  
And buried deep, and all in vain  
May efforts be to rise again  
Unless to live for — OTHERS —  
And when my work on earth is done  
And my new work in Heaven begun  
May I forget the crown I've won  
While thinking still of — OTHERS —  
OTHERS, Lord, yes, OTHERS  
Let this my motto be:  
Help me to live for OTHERS  
That I may live for Thee."





# JACK MINER

## AN HONOR TO CANADA

EDITORIAL, SUMMERSIDE JOURNAL OCT. 3, 1947

Editorial, Chatham, Ontario News, and 100 other Canadian papers: — "AN HONOR TO CANADA. The inclusion of Jack Miner's name among the fifteen great personages of the world is an honor to the man and to Canada, where this great naturalist carried on his work. Others listed are Livingstone, Shakespeare, Burbank, Pasteur, Bell, Edison, Laura Secord, Grenfell, Banting, Lord Kelvin, Churchill, George Washington, Florence Nightingale and John Bunyan. All may not agree that this is the best selection; some may prefer to delete names and add others in their place. But there can be no doubt that Jack Miner deserves such recognition, no matter on what basis a list of the world's great men were being prepared. His labor was unique, and its benefits in the conservation of wild life are incalculable. Although the man himself is dead, the inspiring record of his work must result in that work being continued with the support of private contributions and public grants."

### April 10 - 1865 Jack Miner Nov. 3 - 1944

One year before Jack Miner died, King George VI of England bestowed upon Jack Miner the O.B.E., with a citation which read, "for the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire." On April 10, 1954, Senator Joseph Bradette, Canadian Senate, in paying tribute to Jack Miner over a nation-wide radio program said: "The European countries gave the world great sculptors, great philosophers, great musicians, but Canada gave the world its great Naturalist, Jack Miner." On April 3, 1959, Mayor Louis C. Miriani of Detroit, Michigan, in issuing a Proclamation of that city honoring Jack Miner referred to Jack Miner as "the world's greatest Naturalist and founder of the Sanctuary which bears his name." On April 11, 1960, The Honorable Leslie Frost, Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L., Prime Minister of Ontario, referred to Jack Miner as "Canada's Greatest Naturalist", while The Honorable Anders O. Aalborg, Minister of Education for Alberta on March 16, 1964, referred to Jack Miner as "Canada's Greatest and Most-loved Naturalist." On April 6, 1964, Mr. H. J. B. Gough, Dept. of Education, Newfoundland, referred to Jack Miner as "Our Nation's Greatest Conservationist." On April 13, 1964 The Windsor Daily Star (Ont.) editorially of Jack Miner, said "The Greatest Conservationist This Continent Has Ever Known."

## JACK MINERISMS

— JACK MINER SAID —

- (1) DON'T PUT YOUR TONGUE IN HIGH UNTIL YOU GET YOUR BRAIN STARTED.
- (2) A GOOD SWIFT KICK IN THE RIGHT TIME AND PLACE OFTEN GIVES A BAREFOOTED BOY A GOOD LIFT IN THE END.
- (3) LORD PITY THE PREACHER THAT PREACHES TO PLEASE THE PEOPLE AND LORD PITY THE PEOPLE HE PLEASES.
- (4) DON'T WORK ALL YOUR LIFE TO MAKE A LIVING BUT WORK TO LIVE ALL YOUR LIFE.
- (5) IF IT WERE NOT FOR THE BUILDERS OF AMERICA THE PULL DOWNS WILL SOON BE OUT OF EMPLOYMENT.
- (6) ALL OUR CHURCHES NEED MORE EVANGELISM AND LESS APEISM.
- (7) SCIENCE CAN PUT 10,000 HORSE POWER IN A MOTOR BOAT BUT SCIENCE CANNOT PUT THE LOVE OF GOD IN A MAN'S HEART.
- (8) FOR PERMANENT PEACE BY THE HELP OF GOD LET US BUILD MORE FRIENDSHIPS INSTEAD OF WARSHIPS.
- (9) NO INTELLIGENT MAN CAN LIVE IN THE GREAT OUT-OF-DOORS AND STUDY THE CREATURES WHICH OCCUPIED IT BEFORE MAN HAD ANY CONTROL OVER THEM, COMBINED WITH THE REGULARITY OF THE SUN, MOON AND WHISPERING STARS, WITHOUT BEING COMPELLED TO BELIEVE THERE IS AN OVER RULING POWER.
- (10) IF A MAN HAS A BACKBONE BETWEEN HIS SHOULDERS, AND NOT A WISHBONE, THERE IS NOTHING THAT WILL DO HIM MORE GOOD THAN THE CRITICISM OF SOME RETIRED FAILURE.



- (11) MY CHRISTIANITY IS TOO BIG AND SACRED, AND MY FEAR OF GOD TOO GREAT, TO VOTE AND SEND ANY MAN'S SON TO WAR WHILE I AM AN ABLE BODIED MAN MYSELF AND STAY HOME AND PROFITEER.
- (12) YOU CAN DO ALL YOU CAN FOR THE OTHER FELLOW, BUT IT IS A FAILURE UNLESS HE HIMSELF IS WILLING TO GET UP IN THE MORNING.
- (13) THERE NEVER WAS A MAN SO GOOD BUT THAT A GOOD WOMAN WILL MAKE HIM BETTER.
- (14) IF A MAN IS BUILT OF THE RIGHT MATERIAL, THE MORE YOU SIT ON HIM THE BROADER IT WILL MAKE HIM.
- (15) A PLAYGROUND WITH NO MANAGEMENT OR RESTRICTIONS IS WORSE FOR A COMMUNITY THAN NO PLAYGROUND AT ALL.
- (16) IF YOU ARE GOING TO GET ANYTHING OUT OF YOUR RELIGION, YOU HAVE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING INTO IT.
- (17) TOO MANY PEOPLE SPEND MORE TIME STUDYING THEIR BIBLE THAN PUTTING ITS TEACHINGS INTO PRACTICE.
- (18) I AM FAR MORE INTERESTED IN ANY MAN'S CHRISTIANITY THAN I AM HIS RELIGION, IN HIS PERSONALTY THAN HIS NATIONALITY.
- (19) ANY MAN WHO ISN'T BIG ENOUGH TO CHANGE HIS MIND HAS NOTHING TO CHANGE.
- (20) LET SUNSHINE AND CHEER BANISH SADNESS AND FEAR AND EVERLASTING LIFE START RIGHT HERE.
- (21) YOU CANNOT JUDGE THE SIZE AND QUALITY OF ANY MAN'S HEART BY THE SMELL OF HIS BREATH.
- (22) THE DAY IS PAST IN NORTH AMERICA FOR JUDGING A MAN'S CHRISTIANITY BY HIS RELIGION.
- (23) PERSONALLY IF MY CHRISTIANITY ISN'T STRONGER THAN MY POLITICS, THEN I HAVE NO CHRISTIANITY.
- (24) A MAN'S REPUTATION IS THE OPINION PEOPLE HAVE OF HIM, HIS CHARACTER IS WHAT HE REALLY IS.
- (25) ONE TROUBLE WITH RELIGION TODAY, IS THAT THERE IS TOO MUCH CHURCHIANITY AND NOT ENOUGH CHRISTIANITY.
- (26) THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS NOT A DESTINATION, IT'S A JOURNEY.

## JACK MINER'S TESTIMONY

THE LORD IS MY GUIDE AND TEACHER, I WILL NOT GET LOST; HE MAKES MY HEART A RECEIVING STATION FOR HIS WIRELESS:

HE SITS DOWN BESIDE ME IN THE PATHLESS WOODS AND OPENS UP HIS BOOK OF KNOWLEDGE:

HE TURNS THE LEAVES VERY SLOWLY THAT MY DIMMED EYES MAY READ HIS MEANING.

HE MAKES THE TREES I PLANT GROW, AND FLOWERS TO ARCH MY PATH WITH THEIR FRAGRANT BEAUTY; GIVES ME DOMINION OVER THE FOWLS OF THE AIR AND THEY HONK AND SING THEIR WAY TO AND FROM MY HOME.

YEA, HE HAS BROUGHT ME UP FROM A BAREFOOTED UNDERPRIVILEGED BOY TO A MAN RESPECTED BY MILLIONS OF PEOPLE, AND I GIVE HIM ALL THE CREDIT AND PRAISE WHENEVER, WHEREVER AND FOREVER.





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## JACK MINER CENTENNIAL

April 10, 1865 — April 10, 1965

### Family Herald

Canada's National Farm Magazine

Family Herald, October 28, 1965

## In Memory of JACK MINER

By H. Gordon Green

It is now just a century since Jack Miner was born in the little town of Dover, Ohio; and while Canada is quietly commemorating the event with editorials and other honorable mentions, it seems regrettable that our generation seems to think of him only as a great conservationist.

Conservationist he was indeed, for the sanctuary which he established in 1904 on his farm at Kingsville, Ontario, was the very first on the continent. It is still a model and inspiration for the sanctuaries which governments and conservation groups are establishing all over the world. Miner is also regarded by many as the greatest naturalist who ever lived, and our Parliament has recognized him as such by declaring that our national Wild Life Week shall be observed during the week of April 10, which was Jack Miner's birthdate. His reputation as a great naturalist was equally as great in the United States, where as far back as 1906, the "Minneapolis Journal" referred to him as "the father of the conservation movement" and years later New York's Governor Alfred Smith once introduced Miner to an audience as "the Billy Sunday of the bird family."

But those of us who can recall the unbelievable appeal which Jack Miner had for us when he was alive, and who have now had time to reflect on the true nature of that appeal, must surely be convinced that here was a man who would have achieved greatness whether he had chosen to become a conservationist or not. He was one of the most dynamic personalities which Canada has ever produced.

What was his secret? All the world loves a lover, so the poets tell us; but could all the world love a man so much merely because he was in love with birds?

The truth is that Jack Miner was far more than a conservationist and a student of nature who majored in wild geese. His concern with the fierce slaughter which threatened the Canada Goose when he first became its friend, also led him to be concerned about man's increasing greed and thoughtlessness. His ceaseless effort to unravel some of the mystery of the goose's migration was in reality but a part of his effort to discover some of the mystery of creation itself. And when he caught some of those geese and banded them so that he could explore their migrations, it was not at all strange that each aluminum leg band should have been stamped with a bit of scripture.

(Those who were readers of this magazine in the 20's and 30's are already well acquainted with that simple faith, for Jack Miner's articles and observations appeared frequently in our pages then.)

### The Beginning of the Story

The Jack Miner story really begins with the coming of Jack's parents to Ontario when he was a boy of 13. Although he had always had a great love for wild life and for birds in particular, it wasn't until he came to Canada that his talent for observation could be fully exercised. His family had little money, and as a teen-age boy, Jack took it upon himself to supply the family table with venison and other game. He became a very skilful hunter and later sportsmen from many parts of the U.S. and Canada engaged him as guide and companion.

As Jack grew older however, the urge to shoot gradually changed into a desire to enjoy the living creatures. He had long had the dream of building some sort of park where he could keep wild birds as pets, and in 1904 this ambition was finally realized, though on a very modest scale. His family was by now engaged in the making of bricks, and Jack took a few thousand of these to line a farm pond. For years he invited the Mallard duck to call this pond home, and it was here, in 1909, that he banded his first bird. The small metal band on the bird's leg requested that anyone finding the bird should contact him. The following year he received word from the southern U.S. that the duck had been shot there, the first complete record of the migration of a North American waterfowl.

The small sanctuary grew, and so did the flocks of wild duck which came to its refuge. Tourists came by the hundreds now too, and among them such notables as Henry Ford and Thomas Edison. In 1910, Jack began his first tour as a lecturer, and for over 30 years the income from his lectures was used to support his growing sanctuary.

One part of Jack's dream of a bird heaven still remained unfulfilled however. Of all the game birds, none seemed quite so noble and magnificent to him as the Canada Goose. Yet not a goose had ever trusted his sanctuary.

### Winning Their Trust

Patiently Jack set out to win that trust. He had already given the wild goose a lot of careful study and in particular he had been profoundly impressed by an incident he remembered from the days when he had been a boy shooting game for his mother's table. He had gone out one day to a pond where the geese frequently rested, and lay for hours hidden beneath an old blanket watching a pair of the honkers and waiting for them to come within range of his gun. Sometime after sunrise two laborers came along to work in the nearby ditch, and Jack was certain that they would frighten his geese into the sky. He couldn't believe it when he saw that the geese went right on feeding, for he knew that he had only to show the tip of his gun and they would be off in a flash.

Jack's genius, for scientific deduction began to work as he lay under his battered blanket that morning. He concluded that the reason the geese had not taken flight at the sight of the workmen was because they had judgment enough to realize these men were not interested in them.

"I figured then and there," Jack often said afterwards, "that if those geese had sense enough to recognize an enemy, they must also have sense enough to recognize a friend. And I set out to be that friend."



Miner began his wooing of the Canada Goose by buying seven wing-clipped birds and putting them in his pond. The geese became very tame and were given a 10-acre space to roam in. Hopefully, Miner waited for other geese to drop from the skies and join their domesticated fellows. He had to wait five years, and then one spring morning a flock of Canadas finally dropped down to make a cautious exploration of the sanctuary. That was in 1915 and the geese have been coming ever since. When the fall migration is at its height about 23,000 of them are expected to rest at the little artificial lake and eat their fill of good Essex corn before continuing their journey southward. Some 9,000 geese, probably those who are a little smarter and a little lazier than the others, will remain all winter at the Miner farm.

### Three Sons Carry On Work

Jack's three sons, Manly, Ted and Jasper, have all remained on the farm to carry on their father's work. The sanctuary itself was willed to Manly, Jack's oldest son and the one who had acted as his father's secretary from the time he was 13. In 1937, however, the Jack Miner Sanctuary was deeded by Manly to the Jack Miner Foundation, a non-profit organization which enjoys the distinction of being the only philanthropic organization in Canada where an American can contribute and have the contribution count as an income tax deduction.

Jack would be a little shaken perhaps to know how much it costs today to keep his sanctuary well fed and hospitable. In 1964 over a ¼ million pieces of literature were sent out by the Foundation to schools, nature groups and individuals all over North America. Postage alone cost over \$6,000 last year—an amount which in itself was more than Jack's total outlay in the 20's. But Jack would be proud of the way his boys are carrying on his own ideas of sharing their beautiful place and the beautiful birds which call it home. There is never any charge for that sharing. You couldn't spend a dime at the Miners' if you tried. The only thing you can do, if you feel so inclined, is send a donation to the Foundation after you arrive home from the sanctuary.

Only don't go there on Sunday. A sign on the front lawn says "Closed on Sundays. See you in church." And if you go there on week days, make sure you put your fags back in your pocket when you go through the gate, for Jack's well-known Methodist morals seem to have been taken up by the sons too. As Jack wrote in the "Family Herald & Weekly Star" some 35 years ago: "So many persons have volunteered their advice as to how I can make this a paying proposition, more especially on Sunday. I don't know how many have told me to put up a gas station, a hot-dog, postcard and general souvenir stand. Oh yes, I could go this suggestion one better. I could have a nice dancing floor, way back among the beautiful growth of evergreens, where all the young people from Dan to Beersheba could gather nights, especially Saturday nights. I could charge them 25 cents to get in and the rest they had to get out. I could have a little bootlegging going on in the distance. Just far enough away so I could get the big profit and the other fellow get caught and pay the fine. In fact, I could create a little hell right here on my own way to heaven . . ."

Jack would be glad to know that his sanctuary is still for the soul as well as for the birds, and that the evergreens he planted "way back" are still an outdoor cathedral. Nevertheless, it wouldn't be honest to say that there is no show at the sanctuary, because the show one can see there during the migration months is one of the most thrilling imaginable and cars line the adjoining highway for a mile or more to see it. Go to the Miner farm some October afternoon and you may see a notice posted as if you were in an airport — "Flock arriving at 4.00 p.m." And sure enough at four the skies begin to darken as the geese begin to come in for a landing. They come by the thousands and generally there are several formations in the sky at the same time, each coming from its own secret hideaway but all coming to this one place where they know they are safe and where they will be fed.

### Popular Tourist Attraction

It is no wonder that Kingsville, Ontario, is still one of the most popular of all Canadian tourist attractions and yet it seems regrettable, to me at least, that we should now remember Jack Miner as a great bird man. He was much more than that, for he was writer, farmer, speaker, hunter, evangelist, teacher, social critic and philosopher as well. No other Canadian of his time was so well known and so often quoted. Here are a few quotes that some of us still like to recall.

"A good swift kick in the right time and the right place often given a barefooted boy a good lift in the end."

"Lord pity the preacher that preaches to please the people, and Lord pity the people he pleases."

"Don't work all your life to make a living, but work to live all your life."

"My Christianity is too big and sacred, and my fear of God too great, to vote to send any man's son to war, while I am an able bodied man myself and stay at home and profiteer."

"If a man is built of the right material, the more you sit on him, the broader it will make him."

There were those who thought Miner's religion too good to be true and too simple to be scientific; some labeled him as an uneducated man with intellectual pretensions; some were loudly certain that he must be making money preaching his conservation religion or he wouldn't be wasting his time at it. For it isn't everyone who can understand the full meaning of dedication as Jack Miner knew it and lived it.

The fact is that Jack Miner was also something of a mystic, and like any other mystic he had his enemies and there were many more who could never quite understand him. For Jack himself, however, it was probably enough that God and the Canada Goose he befriended understood him perfectly.

## The Globe and Mail

Toronto, Canada

The Globe and Mail, Saturday, December 4, 1965 (U.P.I.)

# Fall Migration of Geese Makes Sanctuary Popular

KINGSVILLE (UPI) — One of nature's most spectacular fall shows is taking place daily near this small town less than an hour's drive from Windsor.

The scene is a vast expanse of open fields, bush and trees, interspersed with ponds and streams. A sign on the gate leading into it reads:

"God let there be one place on earth where no money changes hands."

To the thousands of Canadians and U.S. residents who visit the site each year, it is known as Jack Miner's Bird Sanctuary.

Star of the show is the big Canada Goose. Thousands of the huge honkers fill the air. They wheel and dive and glide and soar providing a thrilling wildlife show.

Miner is dead now. But the sanctuary is a living monument to his memory.

Miner, born in the United States, became a Canadian citizen. He was born in 1865 and died in 1944 at the age of 79. He held the Order of the British Empire, bestowed on him by a grateful King George VI for his achievement in conservation.

Miner started the world-famous sanctuary in 1904, a year before the founding of the U.S. Government's wildlife sanctuary system. He was a pioneer in the field of banding ducks and geese and tracing their wanderings.

Over the years, hundreds of thousands of wild fowl banded at the Miner sanctuary have been located throughout the world. The information they provided to conservationists opened the way for a better understanding of the migratory pattern the birds followed.

Miner carried his missionary work on behalf of the preservation of wildlife all over the world. He gave thousands of lectures and raised money to further his work. Three years after his death, Parliament created an annual National Wildlife Week as a memorial to Miner. It falls in the week of April 10, his birthday.

Miner's sons, Manly and Jasper, run the sanctuary in the tradition set by their father. It costs more than \$30,000 a year to operate the sanctuary — all of it coming from donations. There is no fee to watch the breathtaking show put on by the migrating birds, who stop here en route south.

The best time to visit is between 3:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. when the evening flights of geese start arriving. The feeding area is closed on Sunday, but you can still see the birds coming in and taking off.

There are as many as 60,000 geese at the sanctuary at one time, in addition to thousands of other species.

The show will continue for another two weeks or so. Then the birds will move south.





# Sons Follow in JACK MINER'S FOOTSTEPS

BY JOHN GILLIES  
Globe and Mail Reporter



Kingsville — No words or pictures could ever adequately describe the experience of a visit to Jack Miner's bird sanctuary during migration season.

Next week is National Wildlife week, which commemorates the late Jack Miner, a man who became a legend in his own lifetime. Yet to many of the younger Canadians and new Canadians he is but a name.

A recent visitor's only recollection of Jack Miner was a picture of him and the sanctuary in a grey-covered geography book in public school 30 years ago.

Jack Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, in 1865, and at the age of 13 moved to the Kingsville district with his parents. He was one of 10 children.

He founded his sanctuary in 1904 and within two years was regarded as the father of conservation in North America. He banded his first duck in 1909 to study the birds' migration routes. In his lifetime he banded more than 50,000 wild ducks and 35,000 geese.

Just ten days ago a goose he banded in 1937 was found at Kitty Hawk, N.C. Through reports from people finding the birds he was able to establish their migration route and their southern wintering grounds.

He started a lecture career in 1910 and for the next 30 years spoke in hundreds of communities across the continent. It was solely the admission fees charged for the lectures that enabled him to build and maintain his sanctuary.

In 1932, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was established as a philanthropic trust.

A visit to the sanctuary leaves a vivid impression which one is not likely to ever forget. As the sun begins to descend, the first flight of Canada geese wing in for their evening feed.

In the distance the flocks appear so large they look like aircraft formations. As they near, their honking fills the evening air. Wave upon wave of the grey-black birds black out the sky, changing formations in flight and gracefully gliding into feeding ponds at the rear of the sanctuary.

Within 30 minutes more than 10,000 Canada geese settle comfortably in the feeding grounds, gobbling the corn put out for them. Dawn and dusk they fly in from Lake Erie to feed and rest, spending about two weeks at the sanctuary before heading up to their summer home in the far north.

In the fall migration, more than 30,000 birds stop off on their way to their southern migration grounds.

Jack Miner was a dedicated man who won endless praise for his work. Tributes were paid him from people in all walks of life. In 1947, an act of the federal Parliament established National Wildlife Week to his memory. A year before his death in 1944, Jack Miner, described by many as the world's greatest naturalist, was made a member of the Order of the British Empire by the late King George VI with a citation for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire.

His three sons now operate the 400-acre sanctuary.

The eldest son, Manly, 68, is a beret-wearing ball of fire who looks after the administration of the sanctuary, constantly extolling the achievements of his father and barely admitting to his own existence.

Manly recalls that as a boy of 7 he set out with his father to acquire the first birds ever to be harbored at what was to become the sanctuary. A district resident had trapped four Canada geese illegally and knowing of Jack Miner's interest in birds had sent word he had them in captivity.

Manly and his father brought them back to their home and kept them for decoys, hoping to attract others. In 1908, four years later, the four were joined by 11 others. Within three years the number had jumped to 350 and soon numbered in the thousands as the migratory route was established.

At the age of 13 Manly quit school to become his father's secretary, booking all his father's speaking engagements and looking after the family's brick and tile business. He has never stopped. He seldom fails to greet a visitor to the sanctuary.

In between he is busy mailing thousands of pieces of literature to schools and organizations, seeking funds for the non-profit foundation that operates the sanctuary. Annual expenses run about \$30,000, and although the sanctuary has incurred deficits over the past few years the sanctuary's endowment fund insures its continued operation.

His proudest moments come as he sits in the sanctuary's trophy room surrounded by the hundreds of awards presented to his father. Deeply religious, Manly and his wife, Lucile, have built an interdenominational altar in the living room of their sanctuary home at which thousands of visitors have silently worshipped.

Each day during migration season and on Sunday's throughout the year, Mrs. Miner offers a program of hymns for the visitors. Played on an organ and piped to a loud-speaker outside the sanctuary, the sacred music can be heard five miles away.

Jasper Miner, at 55, is the shadow of his late father. A great naturalist, he becomes truly excited at the sight of an eagle soaring over the distant trees or when a rare species of duck visits the sanctuary's ponds. His working clothes are a plaid shirt, duck hunter's hat, rubber boots and heavy coat.

He feeds and cares for all his charges with great tenderness. He conducts visitors on tours of the sanctuary — never managing to stay on schedule because of his great love of birds which leads him into long discussions.

Ted Miner, 66, is the quietest of the three sons, staying in the background while working to maintain his father's legend. Retired from the milk and cattle farm he owned, he continues to farm, raising corn for the flocks.

Knowing that the foundation will guarantee the continuance of the sanctuary, the Miner sons hope its operation will continue to be operated by a Miner for at least another generation.

Their hopes are pinned on Jasper's son, Robert. At 11, the boy is taking after his grandfather and father. When not in school he is continually at his father's side, feeding and caring for their winged charges, exhibiting a true enthusiasm for everything connected with the sanctuary.

"It's too early to tell yet," said Jasper. "He may want to be an engineer or any number of other things and I won't stand in his way."

## EDITORIAL PAGE

# The Detroit News

The Detroit News, Sunday, November 7, 1965

## OUTDOORS

By JAMES A. O. CROWE  
Detroit News Outdoor Editor

# He Built A Haven for Birds



JACK MINER

A century ago, Jack Miner was born in the small community of Dover Center, a Cleveland suburb. Today, the world-famous sanctuary he established near Kingsville, Ontario, is a thriving memorial to him.

Born an American on April 10 1865, Miner died a Canadian citizen on Nov. 3, 1944, at the age of 79, bedecked with honors, including the Order of the British Empire. The OBE was bestowed on him by King George VI "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire."

Miner settled on the Kingsville farm, which became the nucleus of the sanctuary, in 1878. He established the sanctuary in 1904. It was one of the first modern wildlife sanctuaries in the world, preceding by a year the founding of the United States government's wildlife sanctuary system when Pelican Island Wildlife Sanctuary was founded off the Florida coast.

It was in 1909 that he began his pioneering work in banding waterfowl to trace the great mystery of their semi-annual migrations.

Hundreds of thousands of geese have been banded over the years. Each aluminum leg tag carries the name of the sanctuary, the date and a verse from the Bible.

A deeply religious man, Miner was a reformed hunter of birds. His parents moved to Kingsville from Ohio when he



was 13 and his father manufactured tile while Jack earned good money hunting ducks and geese for the Detroit market.

Then his brother was killed in a hunting accident. After that, Miner noticed wild birds flew away from him as though they recognized him as an enemy. He wondered if he could make them his friends.

He put away his gun, never to hunt again, and embarked on his attempt to overcome the Canada goose's instinctive fear of man. It was the start of the sanctuary.

#### Preaches Gospel of Conservation

Miner became a true missionary of the gospel of conservation, making thousands of lectures across the continent pleading the cause. He raised thousands of dollars both in the United States and Canada to run the sanctuary and continue its work.

To be sure the work continued after his death, Miner in 1931 established the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation and endowed it with clear, debt-free title to the lands and buildings and all his personal income from lectures and books.

Besides annual financial grants from both the Dominion and Ontario governments, the sanctuary also needs private donations to operate.

Naturalists say that Miner's work, conducted for many years at great personal sacrifice, was responsible for the existence of millions of migratory birds which otherwise never would have been born. They also say his experiments in bird banding helped trace migratory flight lanes and discover the nesting sites of several rare species.

When he died, his funeral was one of the largest ever held in Canada. Five Canadian cabinet ministers headed the thousands of mourners.

One American newspaper at the time called Miner the fifth best known name on the continent, ranking him behind only Henry Ford, Thomas A. Edison, Charles Lindbergh and Capt. Eddie Rickenbacher.

Three years after his death, the Canadian parliament voted unanimously to create an annual National Wildlife Week as a memorial to Miner to fall in the week of April 10, his birthday.

The work of running the sanctuary was left to Jack Miner's sons, Manly and Jasper, who are also trustees of the foundation.

They are making no special point of the centennial year of their father's birth at the sanctuary, but in their brochures sent around the world, they are making a plea for contributions to the more than \$30,000 annual expense of running the sanctuary.

But you can still visit the place without spending a cent. True to the tradition of their father, the Miners refuse to have anything for sale or to charge an admission fee.

#### Thousands of Geese Arriving

Twice a year, in spring and fall, the sanctuary buzzes with activity geared to the great movement of geese, ducks and swans between their northern breeding grounds and southern wintering grounds.

Thousands upon thousands of the birds can be seen wheeling in the air, raising the haunting din of their calls, feeding or resting in the fields or on the water. And thousands of people come to watch the show.

If you feel inclined, the sanctuary is well worth a visit. The feeding area, however, is closed to the public on Sundays, but neighboring fields are blanketed with geese and there is a lot to see.

Manly advises timing your visit between 3.30 and 4.30 p.m. to see the unforgettable spectacle of the evening flight of geese.

The sanctuary is easy to find. As you leave the Windsor side of either the tunnel or the bridge, pick up Highway No. 3 and follow it through Cottam. On the outskirts is a sign directing you to turn right on a blacktopped road south to Kingsville and the sanctuary. It is under 40 miles from the bridge.

And now is the best time to go. The migration is at its peak and will stay that way for another two weeks at least.

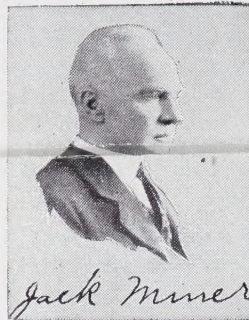
# Detroit Free Press

Detroit Free Press, Friday November 5, 1965

## A Safe Playground For Geese

BY JERRY CHIAPPETTA

Free Press Outdoor Writer



Kingsville, Ontario — Thousands of large, free, wild geese fill the air all around, honking, diving, gliding, soaring, turning and climbing.

Hundreds of spectators gasp at the spectacle. The hair on the back of your neck stands out when, in the middle of this confusion, the voice of an old organ rises above the cacophony.

The time is 4 p.m. The place is the Jack Miner Sanctuary near this small Ontario village about 30 miles from downtown Detroit.

Every afternoon, except Sunday, Jasper Miner, son of the founder of this unique bird sanctuary, and Jasper's son, Eric, 15, walk among the wild Canadian Honkers to put on the show.

The geese, 50,000 to 60,000 of them, are almost all wild birds stopping off here for rest and food on their way south during their fall migration. In the spring, they stop again enroute to Hudson's Bay and other summer territory to the north.

Jack Miner died in 1944 a poor man if wealth is measured in dollars and cents. His sons, Jasper, 55, Ted, 60, and Manly 68, who are carrying on the job of maintaining the sanctuary, believe father Jack was the richest man in the world.

"He will live forever," Manly said, pointing to the honking strings of geese flying over the Miner homestead. "We have banded thousands of birds with aluminum leg tags. Each tag carries the name of our place, the date and a verse from the Bible."

Manly said it was his father's way of spreading the gospel. Besides that, the banding helps professional conservationists track the movement of the geese which sometimes fly half-way around the world. One wounded bird was brought in to Miner's once with a leg band which showed it flew in from Russia.

The wild geese know they are safe here. Miner, born exactly 100 years ago in Ohio, moved to this area around the turn of the century and wanted to do something to help the geese he once loved to hunt.

One of North America's most beloved and honored conservationists, Miner started in 1904 to try to lure the migrating geese.

For several years no geese came and when neighbors, who had laughed at his project, passed him they gave a "honk" as their greeting.

Then one year a single goose came. Eleven stopped the next season and in 1910 Miner counted 350 honkers in his yard.

Today it costs about \$30,000 annually to feed the geese and maintain the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation.

He said money comes from voluntary contributions.

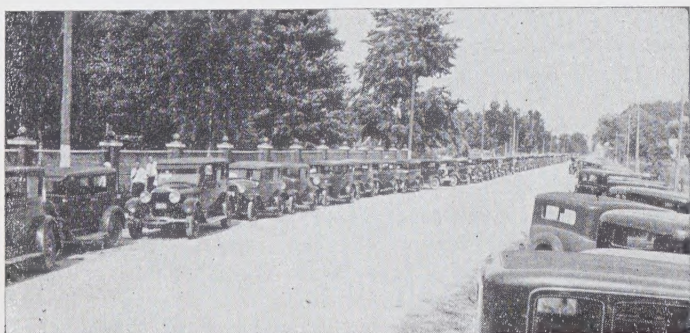
A sign on the front gate of the sanctuary, quoting Jack Miner, says, "God let there be one place on earth where no money changes hands."

There is nothing for sale — no film, post cards, candy apples or anything else at the place, which is reached easily by driving across the Ambassador Bridge and east on Queen's Highway No. 3. About a mile past Cottam, Ont., 23 miles east of Windsor, there is the Kingsville intersection and a small sign marking the way to Miner's.

On these bright fall week-ends, cars are lined up all along the road which separates the goose fields from the main grounds where there are exotic pheasants in pens and other interesting birds.

Children line the banks of a duck pond where wild ducks and geese mix with semi-tame birds and occasionally eat corn and grain from the hands of visitors.

"The birds have spirits and souls," Manly said with his eyes sparkling. "Those children down there couldn't appreciate a Shakespearean drama, but they can get a big thrill right here watching the birds."





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## JACK MINER 1865-1944

A noted naturalist, John Thomas Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, and in 1878 settled on this property. In 1904 he established this world famous bird sanctuary, primarily for the conservation of migrating Canada geese and ducks. Five years later he began banding waterfowl to determine their subsequent movements. During his life Miner lectured extensively throughout North America on wildlife conservation. To perpetuate his work, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in the United States in 1931 and in Canada in 1936. Author of two books on bird life and conservation, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1943 "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire".

Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

## An Address delivered by Reeve Mac Simmers at the Unveiling of the Ontario Memorial Plaque Commemorating the 100th Birthday of the Late Jack Miner

MR. CHAIRMAN — HONORED GUESTS — LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As Reeve of this township I feel this is the most important moment in my public life to welcome you to Gosfield South the home of our beloved Naturalist the late Jack Miner who was affectionately known to all of us as Uncle Jack.

In 1904 when Jack Miner was only 39 years of age he conceived the idea of The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary as a conservation measure to conserve our wild life and to start a reforestation program by planting trees.

Today some sixty-one years later in the U. S. A. patterned off this Kingsville Wild Life Refuge are some 288 wild life refuges consisting of seventeen million acres. Truly Jack Miner was the pioneer in this field of endeavor.

One year before he died The King of England bestowed upon him the Order of the British Empire with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

Today we are standing where not only Jack Miner walked but where his life work was so unique and important that it attracted the outstanding men of the world. To name a few who were frequent visitors and became close friends of Jack Miner were:—In the field of sport I name TY COBB; in the field of industry I name HENRY FORD who spent many days and nights as guest of Jack Miner; in the field of manufacturing I name W. K. KELLOGG, the Corn Flake King; in the field of aviation I mention CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER; in the field of merchandising I name STANLEY KRESGE; in the field of finance I name MR. R. B. MELLON; as an industrialist I name Cleveland's FRED CRAWFORD; in the field of religion I name "BILLY" SUNDAY the great evangelist, also DR. FRANK BUCHMAN of Moral Re-Armament fame; in the field of industry, MR. CYRUS EATON, the Cleveland Industrialist; in the field of sport, MR. "BUNNY" AUSTIN, the world champion tennis player. The guest register in his home is full of such names which includes all the Provincial Prime Ministers since Sir James Whitney and all Michigan Governors dating back to Pingree; also Canada's Prime Ministers dating back to Sir Wilfred Laurier.

When Jack Miner died the U. S. newspapers rated him the fifth best known man on the continent. Preceding him they named Ford, Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker.

In 1956 some twelve years after Jack Miner's death thirty-three official delegates of the United Nations made their way to his home which made history because as these world leaders left his Sanctuary the leader of the party announced they had made history because never did a group of thirty United Nations delegates go in a body and make a special trip to any one place, not even to the White House.

In closing my remarks I would like to express my appreciation to the Essex County Historical Society and the Ontario Archives Dept., Toronto, for their thoughtfulness and foresightedness in erecting this marker on such a historical occasion on this the Jack Miner Centennial year — the 100th birthday of Jack Miner.

Last but not least but personally and on behalf of each and every citizen of this township which I represent I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the efforts put forth by Jack Miner's sons who have so ably filled the shoes of their late father in carrying on this conservation work which has turned out to be one of Canada's greatest tourist attractions and has made his hometown Kingsville known throughout the civilized world. I thank you.

MAC SIMMERS,

Reeve of Gosfield South Township in which is located The Jack Miner Wild Life Refuge.

APR 3 1969



On April 10, 1865 when the late Jack Miner was born in Dover Center, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland, little did his parents realize that his life and career when he died on November 3, 1944 some seventy-nine years later that over five thousand messages of sympathy would reach his family — messages from Kings, Queens, Presidents, Governors, Prime Ministers, preachers and statements from the man on the street. The U.S. newspapers through a poll had rated him the fifth best known man in private life on the continent with only Ford, Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker preceding him.

In 1904 when he was but thirty-nine years of age when he created or founded his Bird Sanctuary which bears his name, little did he realize that today some sixty-one years later it would have proven such a successful conservation program that the U.S. Federal Government would have created 280 such refuges consisting of seventeen million acres. This does not include the Provincial and State Game Preserves. If anyone doubts this statement check the dates of your local refuge system and see if any precedes the date of February 1904.

In 1909 he conceived the idea of banding waterfowl; we say conceived because it was definitely original with him because in August 1909 he banded a mallard duck by putting an aluminum band on its leg which bore Jack Miners Post Office Box number in Kingsville and on January 10, 1910 it was shot by Dr. W. E. Bray of Anderson, South Carolina. This constitutes the first complete record of when a duck was banded and when and where shot.

In 1915 after having banded over 50,000 ducks, mostly surface feeding ducks, he turned his mind and thoughts to catching and banding Canada Geese. Being the first man to band mass numbers of ducks he looked for greater fields by studying the migration of this the largest game bird in America, the Canada Goose. He had to invent his own nets to trap them which meant he rebuilt his trap twenty times. Today, 1965, there have been banded some 60,888 Canada Geese and recaptured 40,000 geese that had been previously banded over the fifty years of banding at the Jack Miner Sanctuary.

All these banding records were given to the Federal Governments of both U.S. and Canada which especially in the early years were used solely to enable the Government officials to determine where to create sanctuaries or refuges where any excessive kill took place.

In 1906 only two years after he had inaugurated and built his Sanctuary and planted 53,000 trees and shrubs the press had featured his activities so much in syndicated articles that the largest paper in Minneapolis referred to him as "the father of the Conservation movement on the continent."

In 1910 with only three months' education and what he had learned about Nature was first hand by being in the open fields, he started on lecture tours to raise money to finance his conservation program and believe it or not for thirty years between the years 1910-1940 he filled the largest auditoriums in both U.S. and Canada and on several occasions the late Hon. Alfred Smith when he was Mayor of New York and later Governor of New York State introduced him (Jack Miner) as "The Billy Sunday for the Bird family." One of his last speeches in U.S. was in Chautauqua auditorium where there were 8,000 paid admission and the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra furnished the music; while in Winnipeg in 1923 he spoke to 13,000 people in three days. The family of the late Jack Miner

feels the crowning speech of his career was on April 9th, 1927 when Hon. Herbert Hoover, President of the U.S., was guest of honor at the Izaak Walton League banquet in the Sherman Hotel, Chicago and whom did they choose as their guest speaker? None other than Jack Miner. Many people feel that the enthusiasm he raised through his lectures was his greatest contribution to International Conservation.

In 1929 Jack Miner was awarded the Outdoor Life Gold Medal "for the greatest achievement in Wild Life Conservation on the Continent during 1929 — Eastern Award", the first time the award was given a Canadian.

In 1936 when King George V of Great Britain was observing his 25th Anniversary as reigning Monarch of the British Empire, the House of Lords and the House of Commons in London, England arranged a world wide radio program on which the King spoke and was followed by a citizen in every country of the Commonwealth. Jack Miner was chosen to give the five minute address on his theme of Conservation. While Jack Miner sat in his home in Kingsville, Ontario to give the address the Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, sat in the Canadian Parliamentary Chambers, both hooked up to the world wide broadcast, and introduced Jack Miner as "Canada's beloved Naturalist." This five minute address by Jack Miner brought letters of praise by the thousands from sixty-five countries throughout the civilized world.

In the late 30's when Senator David Croll was Mayor of Windsor, His Majesty King George VI and Her Majesty the Queen visited Windsor, Ontario. Hon. David Cross named Jack Miner as honorary chairman of the welcoming committee. About a quarter million (250,000) people lined the banks where the train was to pass through, with loud speakers having been erected every one hundred feet. At the appointed time Jack Miner took his place on the reception platform and as the train was three hours late the Mayor announced over the loud speaker that Jack Miner our beloved Naturalist had arrived to help welcome their Majesties. As this was announced over the loud speakers that mass crowd rose to their feet and the next day the Detroit newspapers and press of the land carried these headline words: "Jack Miner, Canada's Most Famous and Beloved Naturalist Given Ovation of a King."

In June, 1943 one year before Jack Miner's death the King of England, King of the British Empire and King of the Commonwealth, bestowed upon Jack Miner the O.B.E. (Order of the British Empire) with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

On April 17, 1947 as Jack Miner's national monument the members of the House of Commons and Canadian Senate created by a special act of Parliament what is known as National Wild Life Week when during the week of April 10 which was Jack Miner's birthday all schools, colleges, universities, sportsmen's organizations, Audubon societies, churches, service clubs observe the week as an educational week in memory of Jack Miner whom the Hon. eslie Fros, Q.C., LL.D., D.C.L., Prime Minister of Ontario, referred to as "Canada's greatest Naturalist".

On April 10, 1965 — the 100th Anniversary of Jack Miner's birth — The Essex County Historical Society in conjunction with the Archives and Historical Society of the Province of Ontario erected a bronze plaque or marker at the Jack Miner Sanctuary. This is evidence of the esteem in which the Township, County and Province of Ontario holds the late Jack Miner and his conservation work.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE W. L. MACKENZIE KING, Prime Minister of Canada at the time of Jack Miner's death in paying his personal respect and the Country's tribute to Jack Miner said: "Jack Miner has rendered our country great services. The inspiration he has given to young and old of many lands by his life work will live after him. The great work done by our beloved Naturalist is an example of a happy combination of theory and practice with common sense applied which has made Conservation practical. Jack Miner enjoyed the good will of everybody." In Parliament of Canada one year later Mr. King in referring to Jack Miner said: "If Jack Miner had any critics, what do the critics have to show? The Jack Miner Sanctuary and Conservation efforts are not only enjoyed by the birds but by humanity."

SENATOR JOSEPH BRADETTE in speaking in behalf of the Members of the Canadian Senate on a memorial trans Canada radio program April 10, 1954 some ten years after Jack Miner's death said: "The European Countries gave the world great sculptors, great philosophers, great musicians, but Canada gave the world its great Naturalist — Jack Miner."

EDITORIAL, Chatham, Ontario News, and 100 other Canadian papers: "AN HONOR TO CANADA. The inclusion of Jack Miner's name among the fifteen great personages of the world is an honor to the man and to Canada, where this great naturalist carried on his work. Others listed are Livingstone, Shakespeare, Burbank, Pasteur, Bell, Edison, Laura Secord, Grenfell, Banting, Lord Kelvin, Churchill, George Washington, Florence Nightingale and John Bunyan. All may not agree that this is the best selection; some may prefer to delete names and add others in their place. But there can be no doubt that Jack Miner deserves such recognition, no matter on what basis a list of the world's great men were being prepared. His labor was unique, and its benefits in the conservation of wild life are incalculable. Although the man himself is dead, the inspiring record of his work must result in that work being continued with the support of private contributions and public grants."



POLAR  
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POLAR PAM

—Windsor Daily Star

APR 3 1966

# The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation, Inc.

Reprint of — 1966 — Second Edition

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KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO, CANADA

**T**RULY the Jack Miner Wild Life Refuge founded in 1904 is a pioneer in the field of Conservation. Such organization as The Audubon Society were not incorporated until 1905. Even so the program of The Jack Miner Foundation creating wild life refuges and artificially feeding birds was in a field of its own at the time of the beginning.

**O**NE hundred years ago we did not need a safety zone for waterfowl to find a haven of rest and a feeding ground but we are living in a changing world and it was in 1904 that the late Jack Miner reasoned that it was just as sane to have a safety area to feed, conserve and protect waterfowl as it was for shooting clubs to own large areas to feed the birds to attract them to shoot. The feeding program is a tool to attract the birds to a place where they can feed in safety and save a breeding supply to go north to nest and reproduce their specie.

**T**HE story of the Jack Miner Sanctuary Conservation plan spread so fast that the Minneapolis Journal in an editorial two years later in 1906 referred to Jack Miner as "the father of Conservation."

**B**UT it wasn't until ten years later, 1916, that over night he became internationally famous. What had happened during the intervening ten years 1906-1916 was the migration of bird life was very vague. One referred to the birds "as going south for the winter and north for the summer.

**I**T was Jack Miner who in 1909 originated the banding of ducks with his name, address and date on the band to learn how long a duck lived, its route of migration and where the said bird spent the winter and summer.

**W**E say Jack Miner originated the idea and it was original with Jack Miner but some sportsmen's clubs in North Carolina two years previous had put colored celluloid bands on ducks' legs but no name or address which meant nothing in comparison to having a name, address and date on the band like Jack Miner had.

**I**T was in August, 1909 that Jack Miner wrapped an aluminum band around a mallard duck's leg with his address on it. In January, 1910 some five months later it was shot on Rocky River by Dr. W. E. Bray in Anderson, South Carolina.

**T**HIS constitutes the first complete record on the continent where a bird was banded and where shot. We challenge anyone to produce an earlier complete record.

**B**ETWEEN 1909 and 1915, some six years, Jack Miner had banded 50,000 ducks and compiled a mass of records which were tabulated by his eldest son Manly who is still living (1966).

**T**O finance his wild life project Jack Miner in 1910 went on lecture tours across the continent and one of his themes was the need of an agreement between U.S. and Canada regarding the open season and the kill allowed in each country because with Jack Miner having banded 50,000 ducks he was the only person who had such mass banding records. True, small clubs by this time had banded a few hundred and some the occasional thousand but none, or all put together, had the mass records as compiled by Jack Miner between 1909 and 1915.

**I**N 1916 what Jack Miner had been preaching for five years took form in what is known as The Migratory Bird Convention Act, more commonly known as The Migratory Bird Treaty between Canada and the U.S. This was the first suggested by Jack Miner in 1910 based on Jack Miner's findings from banding ducks. It in brief is a treaty where both countries arbitrate laws and the open seasons in both countries.

**J**ACK Miner pointed out both in his writings and from the lecture platform that it was foolish for Canada to have Conservation laws and U.S. have lengthy open season or vice versa and Jack Miner's vast banding records proved beyond dispute that the ducks were raised in Canada and most of them were shot in U.S.A.

**A**LL the Members of the Canadian House of Commons and Canadian Senators, all the Members of U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate likewise had to be convinced that Canada raised the ducks and geese and there was the need of an agreement to regulate the kill between the two countries and Jack Miner personally carried his bird banding records of where the birds were killed to both the Prime Minister of Canada and the President of the United States who both used these hand written records made by his son Manly to prove to the legislators of both countries the need of a Migratory Bird Treaty which was enacted and signed by both Governments in 1916.

**I**T was at this time and during these debates in the parliaments of both countries that made Jack Miner internationally fam-



1865 JACK MINER 1944  
PIONEER BIRD BANDER





—Dr. R. D. Sloan

ous over night and the press of both countries gave him his rightful credit of being largely responsible for the Migratory Bird Treaty between the two countries more than any other individual or organization.

This year 1966, all bird lovers in U.S. and Canada observe the Fiftieth Anniversary of this international bird treaty with the U.S. issuing a postage stamp to remind people of this important legislation.

In 1915 after Jack Miner had banded 50,000 ducks he turned his attention to greater fields and that was an ambition to band Canada Geese. This meant he had to build nets and catching contrivances of a different nature which he set his sights on doing in 1915 when he caught and banded his first Canada Goose.

But time went on and he never had any returns of where these banded Canada Geese were killed and all he could learn from the natives in far northern Ontario was that "they went farther north to parts unknown."

Manly F. Miner relates the story of how his father in late 1915 had been burning a kiln of brick at night, which was his occupation, and at the breakfast table his father during his morning devotions said, "Just like a star darting across the heavens at 3 a.m. Good seemed to speak to me and say: 'Put a verse of scripture on one side of your goose bands.'" Then Jack Miner related to his family how he took God into partnership in all fields of his life such as having faith in God in his business adventures so why not take God into partnership in his bird banding ventures and inside of three months he had the Wild Canada Goose carrying his Jack Miner aluminum band on their leg across the continent with each band having a verse of scripture printed and imbedded deeply in the aluminum band as well as his name, address and date.

What happened—in a few months he had a telegram from the late Rev. W. G. Walton from Cochrane, Ontario, most northerly town

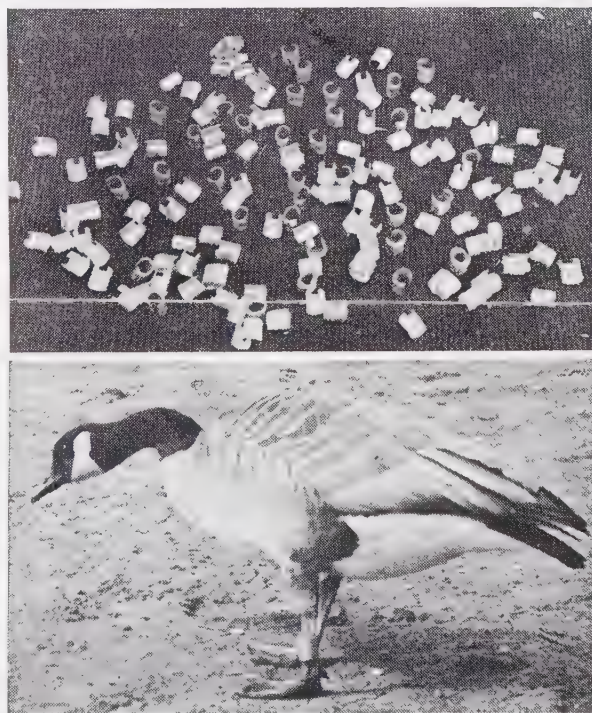
in Ontario, saying he was a missionary in the Hudson Bay - James Bay and Arctic area and was on his way to Jack Miner's home. He had spent twenty-eight days via canoe from Hudson Bay to Cochrane where Jack Miner wired him a railway ticket and those who saw the meeting of Jack Miner and Rev. W. G. Walton, the Episcopalian Anglican Missionary from the Arctic, in Jack Miner's residence will never forget this meeting because the Missionary became emotional and put his arms around Jack Miner and said, "The verses of scripture on those bands have compelled me to bring you several hundred bands taken from the legs of Canada Geese by the Eskimos and Cree Indians because they believe these are messages sent direct by God to them and they bring them to me to interpret which I do each Sunday when they all turn out at service to see 'what God said that time'."

A book could be written on stories related by these and other missionaries since but the highlight from a scientific standpoint is Jack Miner would never have had the co-operation of this missionary and later other missionaries such as the Jesuit Priest had it not been for the verse of scripture on the band.

These missionaries made notes for Jack Miner telling him they had even seen a snow storm, blizzard on the tenth of June with snow drifts eleven feet deep yet the geese stayed on their nest lined with down and hatched and raised their young. This proved to Jack Miner that as far as the nesting quarters of the geese was concerned that man had no worry.

These christian missionaries of all faiths have not only acted as agents for Jack Miner but they have collected especially thirty, forty, fifty years ago all the U.S. wild life bands and sent them to Jack Miner who in turn sent them to Washington, D.C. All this would not have come about had it not been for what Jack Miner called God's guidance to put a verse of scripture on the band.

It is true the occasional modernist referred to Jack Miner as a "religious fanatic" for putting a verse of scripture on an aluminum





band and placing it on the leg of a goose but Jack Miner was always quick to reply and say, "Well, our forefathers must have all been religious fanatics because they printed on our silver dollars: 'In God we trust'."

Between 1910 and 1920 instead of laughing and belittling Jack Miner's original bird banding idea to learn what percentage was shot in the U.S. and what percentage was shot in Canada, in the various States and Provinces, Mr. Olds, Chief of the U.S. Biological Survey, came to see the bird banding nets Jack Miner had invented and so enthused was he that in the early twenties he sent a young man by the name of Fredric C. Lincoln who made three trips here and in the early part of the 1920's at which time the U.S. Biological Survey created a department or division known as The U.S. Bird Banding Dept. who systematically distributed bands to interested parties.

However Jack Miner was so far ahead and so well under way in banding that all his records were sent annually to both the U.S. and Canadian authorities and between 1920 and 1950 practically all the waterfowl Wild Life Refuges in the U.S. east of the Mississippi were established based on the facts of where Jack Miner's goose bands had proven there was an excessive kill. Between 1920 and 1930 several waterfowl Refuges were created within a few years in North Carolina. Between 1940 and 1950 for five years Jack Miner reported excessive kills in Southern Illinois of Canada Geese and advised a refuge at Horseshoe Lake which is one of the outstanding Refuges on the continent and has proven its value as a Conservation measure. Practially all the Wild Life Refuges east of the Mississippi were created directly or indirectly from information received of excessive kill of Canada Geese through information the Jack Miner Bird Banding System obtained. In fact the entire U.S. Wild Life Refuge System in the U.S. was patterned off The Jack Miner Sanctuary founded in 1904 at Kingsville, Ont.

Today this bird banding activity is being carried on more energetically than every by Jasper W. Miner the youngest son of the late Jack Miner but all financed by The Jack Miner Foundation. Jasper W. Miner for the year ending Dec. 31, 1965, has banded 62,888 Canada Geese and recaptured 40,000 that had been previously banded.

If you want your money used for Scientific, Research, Conservation, where can you contribute where there are sixty-two years of research along the lines mentioned above? This is not an organization

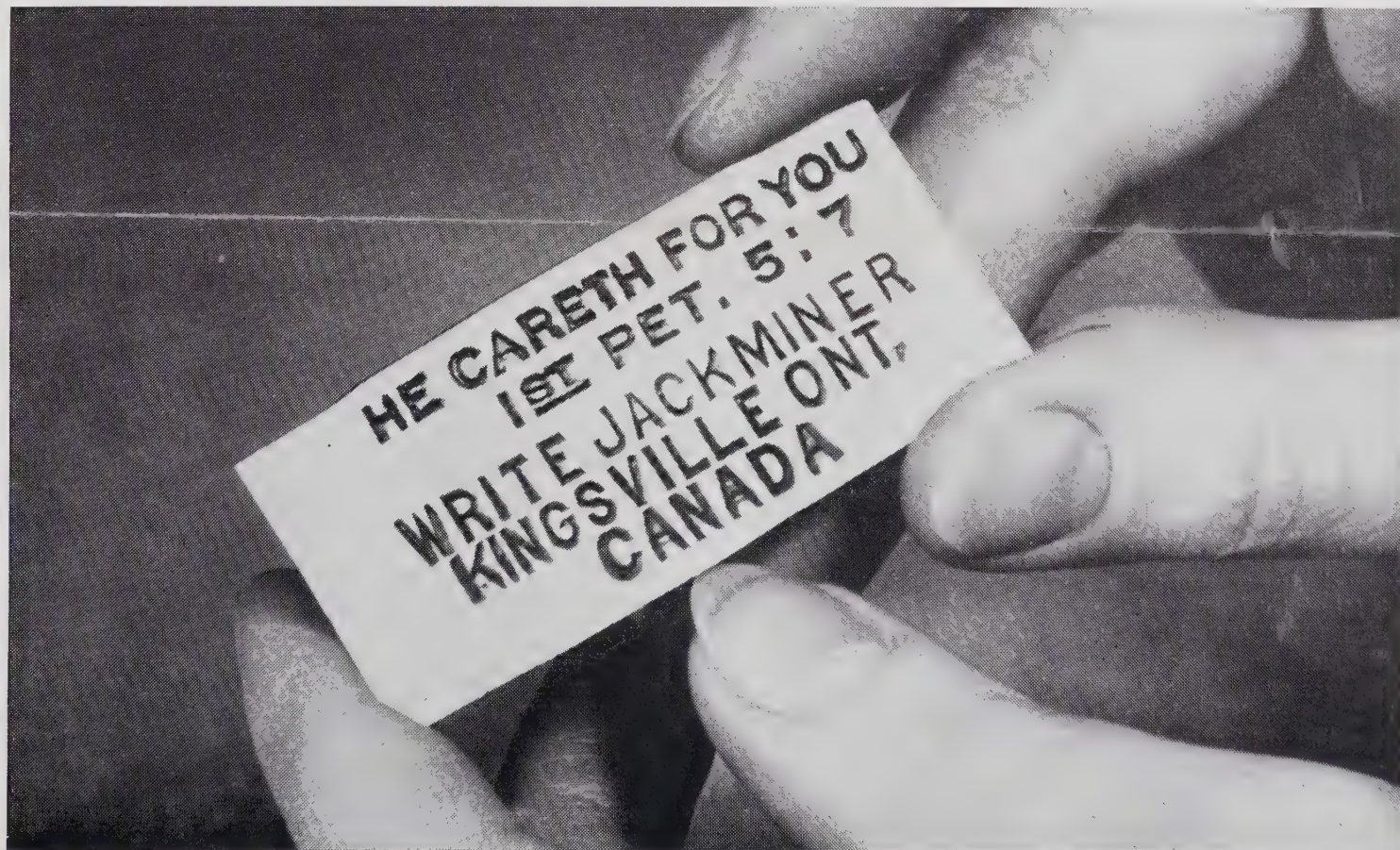
that sprang up over night to do great things and appeal for funds the next day.

Jack Miner did all his research financed from a lecture career of thirty years and then as old age crept on he created in both Canada and the U.S. what is known as The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation—exempt from both income and inheritance taxation in both countries.

After he had created these two philanthropic trusts as proof of his sincerity he gave his Wild Life Refuge to the above Foundation clear of debt and we the trustees of this Jack Miner Foundation ask you the contributing public to not only help maintain it but endow it as the late Dr. Henry Van Dyke wrote Jack Miner before he died and said: "Keep up the good work for God, Humanity and the Birds." Will you do it? See the information on the next page.



Jack Miner the pioneer bird bander liberates a Canada goose at the Jack Miner Sanctuary during the early part of this century. It is the first picture of any man on this continent liberating a banded Canada goose. Jack Miner was the founder of the wild life waterfowl refuge system on the continent where artifical feeding is carried on dating back to 1904.



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The late Hon. John R. MacNicol, M.P., was in Thomas Lamb's famous fur trading Post at Moose Lake in Northern Manitoba in the Arctic Circle when a Cree Indian or Eskimaux came in with a goose he had shot wearing a Jack Miner band with a verse of Scripture on it. The Eskimaux went to the missionary or parish priest with the dead goose and had him interpret the verse of Scripture which was on the band and he said the missionary prayed with him. The Eskimaux said "JACK MINER HIM GREAT MAN, HIM SEND FOOD FOR TUMMY AND FOR SOUL. JACK MINER HIM GOD'S MAN."

Hon. John R. MacNicol, M.P., told the story to an artist of the Salvation Army War Cry who made the above sketch or drawing showing the Eskimaux shooting the goose — The finding of the band on its leg — Then going to the Mission and the missionary praying with him.

THE FINANCIAL NEEDS AND OBJECTIVES OF

## The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation Inc.

KINGSVILLE — ONTARIO — CANADA

EXEMPT IN BOTH U.S. AND CANADA OF BOTH INCOME AND INHERITANCE TAXATION

THE MAINTENANCE FUND

GENERAL OPERATING EXPENSES, \$40,000.00

**F**IRST and foremost the Jack Miner Foundation has to have maintenance money to pay the daily, weekly, monthly and yearly expenses such as labor to raise grain to feed the birds; municipal taxes on the property; postage stamps for mailing informative literature; for printing appeals and making reprints of Jack Miner's addresses and etc.

**S**UMMING it all up it means the same items of expenditure as were incurred by the late Jack Miner such as mentioned above and building catching nets and traps; insurance on buildings and on grain stored in the buildings, and any other expenses deemed necessary by the trustees of The Jack Miner Foundation to carry on as did the late Jack Miner, especially labor to scatter the grain and general administration of the Sanctuary.

\$40,000.00

**T**HIS \$40,000.00 is an estimate of the actual General operating expense for one year based on the average expenditure of the last five years but there is no limit to what the trustees can or could spend annually because they have the full co-operation of the Prime Minister of Canada, the ten Provincial Prime Ministers, the Minister of Fish and Game and the Minister of Education where if money were available ear marked for the purpose, printed literature could be sent to all schools during National Wilf Life Week which the Government of Canada created in memory of the late Jack Miner.

**T**HIS \$40,000.00 needed first and foremost is raised by gifts being sent direct to The Jack Miner Foundation, Kingsville, Ontario, and by the income from the endowment fund. All one needs do is send your money or cheque direct to:

The Jack Miner Foundation, Kingsville, Ontario, Canada

**T**HE cost of labor and grain has increased just double. None of the Trustees of The Jack Miner Foundation receive any salary but on the contrary give their time to administer the activities of The Jack Miner Sanctuary.

**I**T is hoped this appeal will reach many who are able and will give a sympathetic ear to the present needs of this International Conservation institution which is exempt from both income and inheritance taxation in both countries.

Mail your cheque now or when most convenient to you to:

The Jack Miner Foundation, Kingsville, Ontario, Canada

ENDOWMENT FUND, \$1,000,000.00

**T**HE Endowment Fund is strictly an endowment fund where a person gives or makes a sizeable bequest and the money is held in trust by The Detroit Bank and Trust Co. and invested in Government approved securities and the interest turned over annually to the Maintenance Fund. The Jack Miner Foundation can accept cash, real estate, stocks, bonds or securities—all that needs doing is to transfer such stocks or bonds over to The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation.

**I**N Canada the Endowment Fund has an account with The Toronto General Trust Co.

**S**EVERAL people contribute annually and semi-annually to the general expense or Maintenance account and have made bequests in their wills for the Endowment Fund. If you want to make a bequest in your will to help this cause after you are dead and gone and do not know how much or what amount to name, all one has to do or say is to add a paragraph to read: "I give and bequeath to The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation Inc. 'all the rest and residue of my estate'."

FUND TO PURCHASE LAND, \$500,000.00

**T**HE Trustees of The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation want to draw near to any person or Foundation with considerable wealth and consider the following situation:—

**T**HE late Jack Miner owned the land in practically the centre of a block of land comprising of 2,000 acres. Surrounding this land which Jack Miner gave to The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation there is no shooting allowed for one mile in each direction. This no shooting was created by an Order-in-Council by the Government. The land is owned by individual land owners and can be purchased piece-meal, farm by farm, for say \$10,000.00; \$25,000.00; \$50,000.00; \$100,000.00, or if someone would provide the entire half million dollars the land would be purchased and held in trust in the corporate name of The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation and several acres worked to raise grain for the birds and the balance seeded down for the geese to graze on.

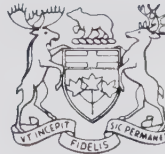
**A**T the present time there are two farms available and could be purchased for \$100,000.00 and another for \$50,000.00. All one would need do is furnish The Detroit Bank and Trust Co. such sums ear marked for this purpose and the Trustees would take steps to purchase the land.

**T**HIS is no original idea because that great family of Rockefeller provided two million to purchase the land at Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, to save the elk and only a few weeks ago The Ford Foundation provided one and a half million dollars "to save the Redwoods at Gold Bluff Beach and to encourage fund raising for this purpose."

**I**S it not as sane to provide \$500,000.00 to The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation to purchase adjoining lands to save the Canada Goose from extermination—

**I**F you are not able or feel inclined to provide funds for this purpose now, why not provide a bequest in your will setting aside money for this specific purpose whether is be \$10,000.00; \$25,000.00; \$50,000.00 or \$100,000.00 or the entire amount. What a living monument for any individual to leave behind where birds can find rest for seven months of the year and Boy Scouts and Girl Guides can use it for camp sites during the summer months—As Jack Miner used to say—"A Sanctuary for Birds and Boys". Will you do it now or later on?





ONTARIO  
OFFICE OF  
THE PRIME MINISTER & PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL

TORONTO, ONTARIO, CANADA  
11th April 1960

Thirteen years ago this month, the Canadian government passed an Act fixing the full week of April 10th as National Wild Life Week. The date was selected because it is the anniversary of the birthday of the late Jack Miner, Canada's greatest naturalist and founder of the Sanctuary that bears his name at Kingsville, Ontario.

We in Ontario should be particularly proud of this national tribute to a man who not only preached conservation, but made a practical demonstration of it that has attracted the attention of the whole world. Every resident of this province should be personally interested in seeing that the great work which Jack Miner undertook so unselfishly and so magnificently is carried on diligently and progressively. We are greatly indebted to him for making us more keenly aware of the great responsibility we inherited, and if we are faithful to that trust, we must promote conservation not only during National Wild Life Week, but every day throughout the year.

One of the underlying functions of National Wild Life Week is to promote conservation through educational projects. In hundreds of our churches, on Sunday, April 10th, ministers preached on topics associated with the conservation of our resources, of which wild life is an important part. Throughout this week, in our schools, particular stress is being laid upon subjects which will promote conservation in the minds of the rising generation.

In the continual development of our present social, economic and industrial systems, natural conditions have been greatly disturbed. The demands upon our resources are a matter of deep concern to every provincial government in Canada. The Ontario government has adapted its programme of conservation to keep pace with modern conditions and meet the ever-increasing problems relating to our forest and wild life sources. Provision has been made for proper control and wise use through regulations based on scientific knowledge and practical experience. The observance of the letter and spirit of these regulations is an essential part of good sportsmanship, and represents a vital link in the chain of progressive administration which is dedicated to the best interests of present and future generations.

It is a worthwhile programme, but if perpetuation is to succeed, it is obvious that it is also a question of individual responsibility. Its success can only be achieved through the support, encouragement and co-operation of all of the people of this great province.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Leslie M. Frost".

Leslie M. Frost  
PRIME MINISTER OF ONTARIO.

POLAR  
PAM  
5903



# JACK MINER



**JACK MINER**

**April 10, 1865 — Nov. 3, 1944**



TO BE THE ORIGINATOR OF THE SANCTUARY IDEA OF ARTIFICIALLY FEEDING, PROTECTING AND CONSERVING THE WILD FOWL OF THE CONTINENT IS A RARE AND FAR-REACHING ACHIEVEMENT.

Whereas, Jack Miner, born at Dover Center, Ohio, and made in Canada, has devoted a lifetime to the ideal of Bird Sanctuary, giving birth to the idea of artificial feeding and protecting, and

Whereas, he has, despite modest financial means, increased the bird population of his sanctuary by hundreds and thousands, enlisting the support of understanding friends all over the world, and

Whereas, he has fostered the building of sanctuaries all over the world by giving of his time, strength and energy, to speed the gospel of protection and conservation of wild life

Therefore, his friends in his native state of Ohio, present him with this all too slight evidence of their admiration, esteem and love, and designate Jack Miner, The Missionary of the Air and International Teacher and Guide to a sound and timely conservation of wild life.

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The plaque at the left was presented to the late Jack Miner between the years 1920-1930 at a Conservation Convention held in Toledo where he was the guest speaker. Making the presentation was Judge Cohn, of Toledo, Ohio.

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## JACK MINER

1865 - 1944

JOHN THOMAS MINER NOTED NATURALIST, ACCLAIMED BY THE WORLD, WAS BORN NEAR THIS SPOT IN WESTLAKE FORMERLY DOVER TOWNSHIP.

HIS INTERESTS GAINED HIM RESIDENCE IN NEIGHBORING ONTARIO, CANADA WHERE HIS LOVE OF NATURE LED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIS WORLD FAMOUS WATERFOWL SANCTUARY IN KINGSVILLE, ONTARIO IN 1904. HERE HE CONCEIVED THE IDEA AND BANDED THE FIRST DUCK LEADING TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF TRACKING WATERFOWL MIGRATIONS.

TO PERPETUATE HIS WORK, THE JACK MINER MIGRATORY BIRD FOUNDATION WAS INCORPORATED IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1931, AND CANADA IN 1936.

HE HAS BEEN HONORED BY GREAT BRITAIN, THE DOMINION OF CANADA, AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. HERE HIS FELLOW OHIOANS HONOR HIM FOR HIS DEDICATION TO THE CONSERVATION OF OUR NORTH AMERICAN MIGRATORY WATERFOWL.

THE SPORTSMEN OF OHIO

STATE OF OHIO  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
COLUMBUS 43215

JAMES A. RHODES  
GOVERNOR

Re: Governor's Statement on Presentation  
of Jack Miner Plaque in Bay Village  
January 8, 1966

Dear Mr. Miner:

As Governor of Ohio, it is my honour to recognize the dedication of a memorial plaque to one of Ohio's distinguished sons, Jack Miner.

Ohio, his native state, pays homage to a man who was virtually the first pioneer in the protection and conservation of one of our most valuable resources - migratory waterfowl.

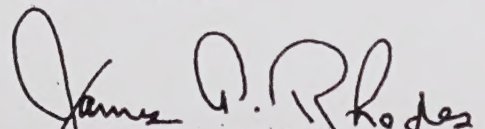
Jack Miner was not only born in our great state of Ohio, at Dover Center, but also received here his first lessons in the wonderful ways of nature and the outdoors. He spent his most formative years in our Buckeye State. It was in Ohio that Jack Miner laid the foundations of the love and concern for wildlife that he was to carry with him when he moved with his family to Canada. Near Kingsville, Ontario in 1904, Jack Miner founded, on his personal initiative, the first waterfowl refuge which set the practical example for conservationists throughout North America.

It is fitting that Jack Miner's native state is following the fine example he set. The fruits of his lifelong work are represented here in Ohio by the three waterfowl refuges established and maintained by the Division of Wildlife of our Department of Natural Resources. These waterfowl refuges are used by over 35,000 wild geese and ducks every year. Jack Miner would be pleased to see his heritage being carried on by dedicated men here in his native state.

Particularly appropriate is the selection, near his birthplace, of the Lake Erie Junior Nature and Science Center as the site of the Jack Miner Memorial Plaque. The Lake Erie Junior Nature and Science Center is an excellent example of the dedication of responsible citizens of Ohio in the continuation of the type of work begun by men like Jack Miner.

Ohio is very proud to be able to claim Jack Miner as a native son. Her citizens are deeply appreciative of his high aims and example in the field of Conservation. The erection of this memorial plaque by the League of Ohio Sportsmen testifies to Ohio's esteem.

Sincerely,

  
JAMES A. RHODES Governor





## JACK MINER 1865 - 1944

A noted naturalist, John Thomas Miner was born in Dover Centre, Ohio, and in 1878 settled on this property. In 1904 he established this world famous bird sanctuary, primarily for the conservation of migrating Canada geese and ducks. Five years later he began banding waterfowl to determine their subsequent movements. During his life Miner lectured extensively throughout North America on wildlife conservation. To perpetuate his work, the Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation was incorporated in the United States in 1931 and in Canada in 1936. Author of two books on bird life and conservation, he was awarded the O.B.E. in 1943 "for the greatest achievement in conservation in the British Empire".

Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario.

## An Address delivered by Reeve Mac Simmers at the Unveiling of the Ontario Memorial Plaque Commemorating the 100th Birthday of the Late Jack Miner

MR. CHAIRMAN — HONORED GUESTS — LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:

As Reeve of this township I feel this is the most important moment in my public life to welcome you to Gosfield South the home of our beloved Naturalist the late Jack Miner who was affectionately known to all of us as Uncle Jack.

In 1904 when Jack Miner was only 39 years of age he conceived the idea of The Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary as a conservation measure to conserve our wild life and to start a reforestation program by planting trees.

Today some sixty-one years later in the U. S. A. patterned off this Kingsville Wild Life Refuge are some 288 wild life refuges consisting of seventeen million acres. Truly Jack Miner was the pioneer in this field of endeavor.

One year before he died The King of England bestowed upon him the Order of the British Empire with a citation which read: "For the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

Today we are standing where not only Jack Miner walked but where his life work was so unique and important that it attracted the outstanding men of the world. To name a few who were frequent visitors and became close friends of Jack Miner were:—In the field of sport I name TY COBB; in the field of industry I name HENRY FORD who spent many days and nights as guest of Jack Miner; in the field of manufacturing I name W. K. KELLOGG, the Corn Flake King; in the field of aviation I mention CAPTAIN EDDIE RICKENBACKER; in the field of merchandising I name STANLEY KRESGE; in the field of finance I name MR. R. B. MELLON; as an industrialist I name Cleveland's FRED CRAWFORD; in the field of religion I name "BILLY" SUNDAY the great evangelist, also DR. FRANK BUCHMAN of Moral Re-Armament fame; in the field of industry, MR. CYRUS EATON, the Cleveland Industrialist; in the field of sport, MR. "BUNNY" AUSTIN, the world champion tennis player. The guest register in his home is full of such names which includes all the Provincial Prime Ministers since Sir James Whitney and all Michigan Governors dating back to Pingree; also Canada's Prime Ministers dating back to Sir Wilfred Laurier.

When Jack Miner died the U. S. newspapers rated him the fifth best known man on the continent. Preceding him they named Ford, Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker.

In 1956 some twelve years after Jack Miner's death thirty-three official delegates of the United Nations made their way to his home which made history because as these world leaders left his Sanctuary the leader of the party announced they had made history because never did a group of thirty United Nations delegates go in a body and make a special trip to any one place, not even to the White House.

In closing my remarks I would like to express my appreciation to the Essex County Historical Society and the Ontario Archives Dept., Toronto, for their thoughtfulness and foresightedness in erecting this marker on such a historical occasion on this the Jack Miner Centennial year — the 100th birthday of Jack Miner.

Last but not least but personally and on behalf of each and every citizen of this township which I represent I want to express our thanks and appreciation for the efforts put forth by Jack Miner's sons who have so ably filled the shoes of their late father in carrying on this conservation work which has turned out to be one of Canada's greatest tourist attractions and has made his hometown Kingsville known throughout the civilized world. I thank you.

MAC SIMMERS,

APR 3 1969

Reeve of Gosfield South Township in which is located The Jack Miner Wild Life Refuge.

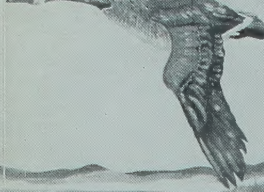




The Name of  
Jack Miner  
and the  
Town of  
Kingsville  
Are Synonymous  
with the  
World Famous  
Sanctuary Which  
He Founded  
This Is  
Emphasized in  
the Chamber of  
Commerce Crest  
Incorporating the  
Flying Goose

FOLLOW THE WILD GOOSE TO

KINGSVILLE



HOME OF JACK MINER

POLAR  
PAM  
5903

POLARPAM

— Photo by Max Moran, Leamington, Ontario

This is a welcome sign painted by our Kingsville artist, Mr. Victor Lucas, which is erected at the entrance of each road leading into our town of Kingsville, Ontario.

## KINGSVILLE

Ontario, Canada

Kingsville is the most southern town in Canada nestled on the north shore of Lake Erie but 30 miles south of Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, yet while it only has a permanent population of 3,000 people, in the summer its population increases to perhaps 5,000 owing to its being such a wonderful summer place for families.

While it actually has only 3,000 permanent residents Kingsville is and has become known throughout the civilized world far better than many cities with a population of 100,000 or more through the fact that in its suburbs is located the world famous Jack Miner Wild Life Refuge which not only became world famous but has made its founder, the late Jack Miner, a world celebrity and for ten or more years the Jack Miner Sanctuary has been rated Canada's second greatest tourist attraction based on the number of tourists coming into Canada who at the ports of entry ask the way to Jack Miner's.

With such an influx into the town of Kingsville the merchants have the greatest selection of merchandise to pick from to fill the needs of any person who chances their way and an invitation and welcome awaits all who visit the Jack Miner Sanctuary to visit Jack Miner's home town where you will find three courteous policemen in full uniform, not to stand on the street and take the number on your automobile, but who have been educated to direct you to the stores where you can secure your needs whether it be a clothing store, a jewelry store, a novelty store or even a grocery store to secure some unique Canadian groceries and Canadian cheese, or maybe a meat market where you can secure Canadian bacon not to be excelled any place on earth.

Do come and visit the hotels and restaurants where the owners not only welcome adults for a steak dinner but bring the family for a family meal. Besides the hotels you will find plenty of restaurants which not only serve snacks, hot dogs and hamburgs but full course dinners. Near Kingsville is located a modern motel as well as two trailer camps for your convenience.

To the ladies who are fussy to have clothes not only up to date but modern several ladies' wear stores can be found that specialize in English tweeds, Irish linens and many European selections as well as well known Canada Brands of good wearing merchandise. To the men the same holds good because so many tourists come to the town that men's suits are of the highest tweeds such as Harris tweeds, Irish Donegals and famous Toronto and Montreal sports wear.

We would not want to forget the outstanding china stores which are unique because they specialize in English and French bone china not to be surpassed any place in Canada.

If you want a quiet town to live in we ask you to contact our many licensed real estate dealers or better still contact our builders and they will gladly purchase a lot and build you a home much cheaper than any place else in Canada because Kingsville has one of the largest and most modern lumber yards in western Ontario. They can supply your building needs whether it be for a home or a factory because with Kingsville being located on the Lake it has shipping facilities not to be found elsewhere in western Ontario either by boat, railway or transport which makes it an ideal site for a factory. The lumber yard is so large it will even finance your building to the extent of the lumber cost.

This pamphlet or brochure is being produced by we, the Kingsville Chamber of Commerce and when you visit Jack Miner's we beg you to visit our town only two miles away where our ambition is not only to sell our merchandise but we want to be known as the most appreciative and courteous town in Canada.

## JACK MINER

By Professor H. R. Wade, B.Sc.

For your information and data regarding the late Jack Miner and his bird Sanctuary by permission of Professor H. R. Wade, B.Sc., we reproduce the following highlights and events of Jack Miner and his Bird Sanctuary. You will find this data most useful for your children or your neighbors' children who throughout America write essays on the life of Jack Miner.

Recently Mr. H. R. Wade, B.Sc., was assigned the research job of compiling important events in the life of the late Jack Miner and the following are a few of the most important events and tributes during Jack Miner's life:

In 1904 the late Jack Miner, who became the world's most famous naturalist, founded the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary and made his home town Kingsville equally as famous.

His conservation efforts were soon recognized throughout North America because in 1906 only two years later, the Minneapolis Journal carried an editorial which referred to him as "the father of the conservation movement on the continent."

In 1909 he banded his first duck to study its route of migration and since then over 50,000 ducks have been banded with an aluminum band which bears not only Jack Miner's name but his post office address Kingsville.

In 1910 he started a lecture career in which, at the time of his death two biography writers claimed that, between 1910 and 1940 some thirty years, he had spoken to more people than any other individual. In 1923 he spoke to as high as 13,000 people in two days in Winnipeg. It was solely the admission fees charged at these lectures that provided him revenue to build and maintain his bird Sanctuary.

In 1915 he banded his first Canada goose and since that date 60,000 have been banded with his famous aluminum bands which, like the duck bands, carry not only Jack Miner's name but his home town Kingsville, as the Hon. Paul Martin, M.P., recently said, "Jack Miner wrote Kingsville, Canada, across the skies of North America."

Newspaper editors claimed that when a goose or duck is shot wearing a Jack Miner band with his address Kingsville on the band that as high as a thousand newspapers through a newspaper syndicated service had carried the story and thus created interest in his scientific bird banding research work.

In 1926, Professor W. S. Milner, instructor in Greek and Roman History in the University of Toronto, pointed out a similarity between Jack Miner's philosophy and the teaching of Aristotle; for, in preparing his final examination paper for fourth year students in the classics, that year, he set this question: "Jack Miner says: 'If you are privileged to live in a country, you can make your home into a little earthly heaven by interfering with the balance of Nature, as some call it, but, as I deem it, assisting Nature.' What would Aristotle have to say?"

Professor Milner went on to say: "Jack Miner takes for his authority verses 21-26-28 in the first chapter of the Book of Genesis, where it is written that God created everything, the fish of the sea, the fowl of the air, and so on; and said, then: 'Let us make Man in our image, after our likeness; and let Men have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the fowl of the air, over the cattle, and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.' It would seem that this eminent teacher, Professor Milner, found a similarity in the philosophies of the ancient scholar and Jack Miner, the modern naturalist whom the Right Honorable Leslie Frost, Prime Minister of Ontario, on April 10, 1961, described as Canada's greatest naturalist.



Jack Miner, the Canadian Naturalist, banding and liberating a Canada Goose in 1915.

With only three months' public school education he had gained such a practical education in the woods watching and observing nature that in 1927 he was unanimously chosen to be the guest speaker of the Izaak Walton League at their historic dinner on the evening of April 9th, in the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, when the Hon. Herbert Hoover, President of the U.S., was the guest of honor. Some 1,200 men and women attended the banquet paying \$10.00 per plate at which time Jack Miner was paid a fee of \$1,000.00 and \$100.00 expenses. No other public speaker regardless of education and his or her degree was ever honored at such an historic banquet when the guest of honor was the President of the United States.

In 1929 Jack Miner was awarded the Outdoor Life Gold Medal "for the greatest achievement in Wild Life Conservation on the continent during 1929 — Eastern Award," — the first time the award was given a Canadian.

In 1932 as old age began to creep on Jack Miner, he with the help of his lawyer friends and a supreme court judge created what is known as The Jack Miner Migratory Bird Foundation, a philanthropic trust. To safeguard the Sanctuary he and his late wife Laona Miner gave his bird Sanctuary, home and community park to this philanthropic trust which means it never can be sold or mortgaged but remain as a living monument to his insight and foresight.

In 1936 when King George V of Great Britain was observing his 25th anniversary as reigning monarch of the British Empire, a world-wide radio broadcast was arranged by the British House of Commons and the House of Lords, England. The Right Hon. Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, knowing that no other Canadian in any field of endeavour had received such world recognition chose Jack Miner to give the round-the-world radio address representing Canada. Two sets of special telephone wires (so if one went bad) were installed from Kingsville telephone control to Jack Miner's home and at the appointed time May 7, 1936, while Jack Miner sat in his home to make the broadcast, The Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King in Ottawa introduced Jack Miner to the audience listening on the world-wide hook up his voice was heard around the world on the program with His Majesty King George V. This world broadcast from Kingsville brought to Jack Miner's home letters from sixty-five countries because the entire British Empire was asked to observe and listen to the world-wide program which was arranged as one of silver anniversaries of His Majesty.

The Book of Knowledge is edited by several hundred outstanding editors and professors and other men of learning and on the page devoted to the names of the twenty "great men and women of the world" these great educationalists have included the name of Jack Miner and it appears along the side of the names of Edison, Pasteur, Burbank, Bell, Grenfell, Churchill and others.

In June, 1943, His Majesty King George VI, son of King George V, bestowed upon Jack Miner the O.B.E. — Order of the British Empire — with a citation "for the greatest achievement in Conservation in the British Empire."

On April 10th, 1941, the last birthday Jack Miner spent on earth, the Essex County Tourist Association under the able personal supervision of Mr. Harry Lassaline, executive director, the Council of the Town of Kingsville, the Council of Gosfield South Township, all local civic organizations including the Senior and Junior Chambers of Commerce and Lions Club, the Canadian Legion, the Masopie and Oddfellows lodges sponsored a testimonial banquet in his home town, Kingsville.

During the years of his lecture career which was between the years 1910-1940 he coined the phrase: "A dollar brought into Canada by a tourist from another country and spent was as important to Canadians as a dollar brought into Canada for wheat going out of this country." Thousands, yes tens of thousands, of citizens

Pictured below shows Jasper W. Miner, youngest son of the late Jack Miner, carrying on the bird banding at the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary which was started by his father in 1909. Jasper has banded and helped band 50,000 ducks and nearly 60,000 Canada Geese and recaptured 40,000 Canada Geese that had been banded in previous years. If each goose averaged 10 pounds it means he has handled one million pounds of goose flesh.



Photo by Windsor Daily Star, 1963







The Rev. J. A. E. Blackwell, local Anglican minister, helps Jasper Miner band a Canada goose to study its route of migration. Each band carries a verse of scripture.

still living heard him make that statement from the lecture platform between the years 1910-1940. This caused many publications to refer to him as "the father of tourism." He would illustrate his point by saying: "Thousands of people are attracted to Canada each year to see the activities of my bird Sanctuary and leave money in the towns and throughout the entire country for meals they eat, for produce they purchase and shopping done in local towns and cities."

He would illustrate his point still further by saying: "More living attractions and less dead ones." He would continue by saying: "Tens of thousands of people come to my home to see living bird life, how many would come to see a pile of dead geese?" The reason he would compare a dollar coming in by tourists "was as good as a dollar coming in by wheat going out" was because during the early part of the century Canadian wheat was referred to more or less as the gold standard of Canada and the national revenue of Canada largely depended on wheat being sold to foreign countries.

Some few years before he died he was scheduled to appear in Ottawa, where the Auditorium of the Dominion United Church had been secured. He was not only honored by being the house guest of the late Right Honorable Mackenzie King, Prime Minister of Canada, but Mr. King accompanied him to this huge auditorium and introduced him to an overflow house. In the audience was no less a personage than His Excellency Lord Willingdon, the Governor-General of Canada, and his twenty house guests from the Dominion of Canada Government House.

Mr. Mackenzie King, in his introductory remarks, said: "Jack Miner enjoys the goodwill of everybody, his Sanctuary and Conservation efforts are not only enjoyed by the birds but by humanity. If Jack Miner's program has any critics, what do his critics have to show?" he would ask.

At the time of Jack Miner's death, the same Rt. Hon. Mackenzie King, who was still Prime Minister of Canada, in paying the country's tribute to Jack Miner, said: "The great work done by the late Jack Miner, our beloved naturalist, is an example of a happy combination of theory and practice with common sense applied which has made Conservation practical. Jack Miner not only preached Conservation but he made a practical demonstration."

So active was Jack Miner in promoting and being a pioneer in popularizing the importance of the tourist trade or business that at the time of his death he was president of the Essex County Tourist Association which is one of the oldest if not the oldest active tourist association in Canada with headquarters in Windsor, Ontario, in the county in which Jack Miner lived and where his bird Sanctuary is located.

As a writer on Conservation matters he had as high as thirteen articles appearing in thirteen different magazines in one month. As a lecturer at the time of his death two biography writers claimed he had spoken to more people than any other person because between the years 1910 and 1940 to finance his Conservation efforts and program he went from coast to coast on the lecture platform preaching the need of Conservation. Even as far back as 1906, as said above, the Minneapolis Journal referred to him editorially as "The Father of the Conservation Movement."

He filled the largest auditoriums on the continent, such auditoriums as Carnegie Hall, Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria, State Educational Building of Albany, New York, Massey Hall, Toronto. To me it was not only his message of Conservation but his great personality, what I would call his philosophy. True, you will find humor in some of his sayings but in others a sense of sincerity that causes me to say had his life been turned to theology the philosophy he possessed would have made him one of the greatest preachers of his day. It was a great day for bird life and the field of Conservation when Jack Miner saw and chose the field of Conservation as his life devotion. I use the word devotion because truly his was a devoted life to the cause so near and dear to his heart. Above all was his sincerity.

No person could make a three year study of the life of this great man without realizing he possessed a great philosophy, to me a philosophy far greater than Will Rogers' and in years to come will even be appreciated far more than Mark Twain or Elbert Hubbard and I feel

this statement is borne out by the writers of the above paragraphs I chose as an introduction — especially the first paragraph or statement by Professor W. S. Milner where he compares the philosophy of Jack Miner with that of Aristotle and again where in April 1949 Dr. Harrison F. Lewis, chief of Canadian Wild Life Service, refers to how Jack Miner "used his exceptional gifts to enlist several millions of people as supporters to Conservation."

An entire book could be written devoted to the life work of the late Jack Miner — his honors and tributes and I am sure when this is done the following incident will be recorded and given prominent space.

In the late 30's when Senator David Croll, who was Mayor of Windsor, Ontario, His Majesty King George VI and Her Majesty the Queen visited that city and whom should Mayor Croll choose as the guest of honor of the reception committee? — none other than Jack Miner, Canada's most famous citizen who lived only thirty miles from Windsor. Jack Miner arrived on time but the special train carrying their Majesties was three hours late.

What happened — a crowd of a quarter million people lined the banks for five miles where the train carrying their Majesties was to pass through. Every hundred feet was erected a loud speaker and as Jack Miner arrived and took his place on the speakers' and reception platform Mayor Croll announced that "Jack Miner the world's beloved naturalist, had arrived as honored guest to help welcome their Majesties." What happened — that vast crowd of an estimated quarter million people all rose to their feet in applause and the next day the headlines of the press especially the U.S. press in large block letters on the front pages carried these words:

#### JACK MINER CANADA'S MOST FAMOUS AND BELOVED NATURALIST GIVEN OVATION OF A KING



Jack Miner loved flowers and made a study of plant life as much as he did bird life.

#### JACK MINER'S MEMORIAL

On Nov. 3, 1944, Jack Miner died at which time Kings, Queens, Presidents, Prime Ministers all joined with the men and women in every walk of life in paying tribute to him.

The newspaper clipping services announced that for the last thirteen years of his life the press in Canada had devoted more space to him and the Kingsville Bird Sanctuary than any other Canadian.

Several newspapers in the U.S.A. rated him the fifth best known man on the continent; the names preceding him were Edison, Lindbergh and Rickenbacker.

Much different than most famous celebrities, honors have continued to come to Kingsville's famous citizen because on April 17, 1947, by a special Act of Parliament by a unanimous vote of both the Canadian Members of the House of Commons and the Canadian Senate the week of April 10th which was the birthday of the late Jack Miner was proclaimed National Wild Life Week throughout Canada and is to be observed each year on that date as a living memorial to Canada's most famous citizen.

Throughout the civilized world Electric Week is observed during the week of the birthday of the late Thos. A. Edison, the electric wizard, while in Canada throughout the ten Provinces of this Dominion, Wild Life Week is observed, by an Act of Parliament, during the week of April 10th, the birthday of the late Canadian Naturalist Jack Miner.

National Wild Life Week was created on April 18, 1947, by a unanimous vote of the Members of the House of Commons (Congress) and the Members of the Canadian Senate as a living memorial to the late Jack Miner who gave his life, his talent, his income, his all to the cause of Conservation. At the time of his death Senator T. A. Crerar, Minister of the Canadian Wild Life Service and later Senator, in paying tribute to the late Jack Miner said: "I doubt if there is in any field of work in Canada, anyone who has rendered a greater national service than Jack Miner." Also at the time of his death the Right Honorable John G. Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister of Canada, in paying tribute said: "Jack Miner's career has been one of great service to mankind. Personally, I will always regard the three hours spent in his company as the outstanding ones in my life."

National Wild Life Week is not just another week to promote the sale of some dusty merchandise but is a



Photo taken in 1950 of automobiles parked in front of the Jack Miner Bird Sanctuary. This is evidence of public interest.



week one and all are asked to stress the importance of not only our wild life but of all our God-given natural resources — a week when all school teachers are asked to stress and focus their attention on Conservation — a week when all sportsmen's clubs and natural history organizations are asked to feature same in their respective towns and cities — a week when all service clubs are asked to have speakers talk on God's great outdoors at their weekly luncheons and last but not least when all preachers, pastors, priests and rabbis are asked to take as their theme the importance of preserving our natural resources. Nothing is allowed to be sold, no clubs are permitted to solicit funds but strictly an educational week when generations to come will be on the receiving end.

At no expense to anyone it is a very appropriate way to perpetuate the memory of the late Jack Miner and act as a living memorial to him who gained the respect of the entire world which brought him honors from the peoples throughout the civilized world, honors and tributes that fill a room in his Sanctuary home — one biography writer said, "more tributes, medals, scrolls and plaques than any other Canadian ever received."

An entire book could be written based on the tributes, accomplishments, honors, scrolls and medals received by Jack Miner. In fact, an entire room is now devoted in his late residence to house such citations which will go down in history because I say unhesitatingly after my three years' research program on this man that no man, regardless of what field of endeavor he may have chosen has ever received such honors. With not only Canada paying tribute for one week to the one and only Jack Miner, but the City of Detroit with a population of two million in 1956 and 1959 declaring a Jack Miner week to coincide with the Canadian national week in his honor is in itself the most unique honor for a man whose field of endeavor and work was in a foreign country.

As some news commentators in the U.S. said: "We observe one day in Detroit for Lincoln's and Washington's Birthdays but we rightfully observe one week for Jack Miner's life and life work when the schools are reminded to study Conservation."

In 1950 on a quiz program over a radio network in both Canada and the U.S., Jack Miner, by a vote of 4 to 1 was voted the greatest naturalist that had ever lived."

In the spring of 1955 the Jack Miner Sanctuary was used by the Canadian National Defence Board to ascertain the difference a flock of wild geese had on a radar screen as compared to a flock of aeroplanes.

On April 10, 1956, the Mayor of Detroit issued a proclamation calling upon the citizens of Detroit to observe Wild Life Week in memory of this "great Canadian" to coincide with the Canadian Wild Life Week. This was a very distinct honor for Jack Miner in this way to be recognized in Detroit, a foreign country. Such an honor had never been bestowed on any Detroit citizen.

On December 28, 1956, some 33 official delegates from the United Nations accompanied by their interpreters and secretaries, made a special trip to Canada from the United Nations Assembly for no other reason than to visit Kingsville and the Jack Miner Sanctuary, an honor never bestowed upon any other town, city or individual.

On September 9, 1958, The Right Honorable John Diefenbaker, Prime Minister of Canada, the Hon. Leslie Frost, Prime Minister of Ontario, accompanied by their wives and The Hon. Gordon Fleming, Finance Minister of Canada, made a special trip from Windsor, Ontario, to visit The Jack Miner Sanctuary and while there to visit the graves of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Miner and pay tribute to him and their pioneer Conservation work.

Today Jack Miner's and his wife Laona Miner's bodies lie entombed in a sarcophagus in a quiet spot on the Sanctuary grounds in the suburbs of Kingsville, Ontario, where it has been said more people in one day (16,500) visited their resting place than ever visited the graves of any other person in the same time, all brought about by Jack Miner's kindness to bird life and his fellow men.

"His name liveth forever."



Photo shows the wild goose trap on the Jack Miner Sanctuary where the birds are caught and banded.



The Jack Miner Sanctuary is all private property owned and operated by the Trustees of The Jack Miner Foundation. It is open to the public, no admission fee, every day except Sunday from Oct. 15 to May 1 each year with the best time to make a special trip being 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. during the last week of October and the first three weeks of November, or in the spring the last ten days of March or the first ten days of April from 5:00 p.m. until dark.